

FY17 Budget Meetings January 13, 2016 – 3 pm

Present: Tom Durawa, Steve Jordan, Donna Lowell-Bettencourt; Jim Carter; Mort Fearey, Jr., Steve Jordan, Robbie Coad, Margaret Serpa and Art Smadbeck.

Meeting called to order at 3 pm.

Dukes County Regional Housing Authority: David Vigneault; Lucy Morrison, Mark Hess, Christine White, Christina Brown – Affordable Housing.

Budget is up about 16% due to additional of one new employee, the first in a dozen years. Now a 3 person staff. The DCRHA is also applying to the county to become part of the retirement system, which will entail buyback for the 10 year employees and determine costs. Mark Hess spoke for the Affordable Housing committee members present and thanked David for all the assistance he has given to them. They were present to help support his budget for FY17.

MV Commission: Christina Brown, elected member; Curt Schroeder, accountant; John Breckenridge, Adam Turner, new executive secretary. Budget is level overall. There is a slight increase of \$5,000. over FY16. The MVC will begin a capital plan to restore and repair the Old Stone Building over the next five years. Mr. Turner introduced himself and stated that he has been meeting with Island town planning boards to acquaint himself with the different towns and their procedures. He is actively seeking grants to help offset budget costs. He was asked about economic development studies to ease dependence on tourism as a main income source.

Edgartown School: John Stevens, Principal; Megan Anderson, Kelly McCracken school committee members. Art Smadbeck complimented Mr. Stevens that his operating budget had not had any significant increases in many years. School population is currently 372; six new students in 2016, 3 of whom will require ESL services.

Article: \$80,000. to repair/replace windows.

MV Regional High School: Peg Regan, acting principal; Amy Tierney, Mark Friedman, Matt D'Andrea, superintendent and assistant superintendent. Ms. Regan noted that the student body is down 180 students from a few years back, currently 654 students. There has been no staff reduction, rather, they are reorganizing open teaching positions due to retirement, etc. They are actively rearranging the staff to cover extra periods. Example, they will not replace athletic director, but will split the position with current staff. The most immediate need is building maintenance, which has been neglected for a period of time even though they had hired a building maintenance employee, now gone. The most important areas of concern: envelope study - \$3,000,000.; track replacement - \$1,000,000.; space needs – to be determined; HVAC - \$5,000,000. The building was last updated 1993. Prior to that improvements were made in 1980 with an addition to the original 1959 structure. Each added section comes with its own set of problems. The HVAC project will address a central system rather than the 3 now being used. This planning stage will not be reflected in FY17, but rather 2 or 3 years down the road. It was noted that the vocational shop spaces are desperately outdated and need to be up to

code. Budget is up 6%, but revenue reductions due to debt payment are now. They really cannot depend on the state reimbursements to go higher as they are based on costs and population. Expenses are up 4%.

MV Center for Living: Leslie Clapp, director present. The budget is up 31%. It was noted that this is tentative budget as they are still waiting to hear about moving the program to the new building and won't have any information on that until March. She is preparing budget as of 7/1 anticipating they will be in the new building. They are hoping to add an additional day for the daycare. Budgets are based on the 50-50 formula used by the country. The towns voted last town meeting to approve the cost of purchasing the VH property. This is a new model as it will be the first building all the towns have purchased for a service. They expect a 30% increase in clients. Fees are private pay and funds from Elder Services. They are not reimbursed by medicare as they are not a medical facility. Costs are \$40/full day and \$30/half day. They will occupy ½ the building and the rest will be rented. It was recommended by the FAC and the selectmen that the format for presenting their budget show a comparison from previous years. It is difficult to determine what areas are increasing on the current form. Leslie will speak with the county. She also prefers to use that spreadsheet for comparisons.

Article: \$144,135.64 from overlay surplus

Vineyard Health Care Access: Sarah Kuh, director present. Ms. Kuh updated the FAC about the current status of the health care access program. Grants from Elder Cape and Island Svc. are gone. They still have grants from the state Navigator programs (40,000.) United Way (10,000.) and Island Healthcare (150,000.) Expenses are up for building maintenance and their health insurance costs(8%). More than 4,000. people were helped by the program. Budget is 10% over FY16. The affordable health care mandate is driving costs.

Article: \$91,297.44 for operational expenses.

Healthy Aging Task Force: Paddy Moore and Tom Callinan. FY17 budget request is \$101,000. FY 16 was \$79,000. Edgartown's share is \$27,202. There was a carryover from FY16 as the employee was not hired until mid year. It was determined that the coordinator had to be an employee and not an independent contractor. This is on the country pay schedule. It is a 40 hr per week position with health and insurance contributions. Survey was returned and shows significant challenges for elders.

Article: \$27,202.73 town share of budget.

The final three departments have had significant cost increases from FY16. Ms. Serpa reminded them that these increases cannot continue at this rate. The FAC and selectmen would like to see extra vigilance to keep costs from rising at such a rapid increase. Co-chair Tom Durawa felt he had a conflict of interest on any country budget hearings and excused himself from the budget meetings for Center for Living; Healthy Aging task force and Vineyard Health Care access.

After the departmental budget meetings ended, the FAC acted on the Warrant Articles for FY17 as presented. The acting chair read the articles and several were set aside for

additional discussion. Articles 8, 16 and 17 were passed. A motion to approve Articles 5-17 with the exception of 8, 16 and 17 made, seconded and approved.

Discussion on Article 8 – CPC funds for improvements to the Tabernacle benches. The FAC discussed the pros and cons of Edgartown’s CPC funds being used for other towns. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve Article 8.

Discussion on Article 16 – CPC funds for bathrooms on the high school property fields for community use. Further information was requested if the formula used to determine town costs for school projects was used in this request to CPC. The assistant will contact the CPC about the information provided and how the amounts were determined. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the request based on the formula being used or to not recommend the article and to call in the applicant’s for further information.

Discussion on Article 17 – CPC funds to purchase land in Katama for harbor access. Discussion took place on the merits of purchasing such a small piece of land for a high cost. Several members felt it was an important purchase for the town that should be followed through. It was noted that the article still needed further action from counsel and the family regarding the sale. A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the article with one abstention. 5 yea, 1 nay.

A motion was made, seconded and voted to approve the monetary articles on the warrant as presented.

Meeting adjourned at 5:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Gail Avakian, assistant