

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD OCTOBER 21, 2015 – 4 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: STEVE JORDAN, CHAIR; TOM DURAWA, CO-CHAIR; LES BAYNES; ROBBIE COAD; DONNA LOWELL-BETTENCOURT; JIM CARTER PAOLO DEOLIVEIRA.

OTHERS PRESENT: PAM DOLBY, TOWN ADM; CHIEF SHEMETH; DEP. CHIEF SCHAEFFER; LARRY THOMAS, FIRE DEPT.; CHIEF ROSSI, POLICE; LISA SHERMAN, LIB. DIRECTOR, BOB AVAKIAN, LIB. TRUSTEE; MAURA MCGROARTY, OB FINANCE COMMITTEE.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 4 PM. A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED AND VOTED TO APPROVE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 16, 2015.

CHIEF SHEMETH DISTRIBUTED A HANDOUT FOR THE FAC OF SOME FINANCIAL NEEDS OF THE FIRE DEPT. FOR FY17 AND INCREASES THAT WILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED AT BUDGET HEARINGS.

AS REQUIRED BY STATE REGULATIONS, THE DEPT. WILL NEED TO REPLACE TURNOUT GEAR THAT IS TEN YEARS OLD. COST TO REPLACE ALL GEAR AT ONE TIME WOULD BE \$140,000. EACH SET IS ABOUT \$2,000.00. DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ABOUT ANY ADVANTAGE TO ALL HAVING THE SAME GEAR OR COULD IT BE REPLACE OVER THREE OR FOUR YEAR INTERVALS. DEP. CHIEF SCHAEFFER MENTIONED THAT THEY HAVE ABOUT 2 YEARS BEFORE THEY REACH THE 10 YEAR LIMIT. PAM DOLBY NOTED THAT UNTIL ALL THE FISCAL NUMBERS COME IN, SHE WANTS TO KEEP ALL DEPARTMENTS FROM OVERSPENDING.

DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ON REQUIRED TESTING OF AERIAL LADDERS AND GROUND LADDERS. THE COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, FORMERLY PAID BY THE SHERIFF'S DEPT., IS CONTINUING TO INCREASE IN COST. EDGARTOWN'S SHARE IN FY16 WAS \$11,668. AS OPPOSED TO FY15 AT \$5,092. THEY EXPECT COSTS TO INCREASE 20%.

INSURANCE COSTS HAVE RISEN SHARPLY. PAM EXPLAINED THAT WHILE THE TOWN'S OVERALL INSURANCE COSTS HAVE DECREASED, THE INSURANCE TO COVER INJURY TO THE FIREMEN WAS INCREASED. THIS AMOUNTED TO THE OVERALL CHANGE.

TRAINING IS BEING ALLOWED TO BE DONE ON THE ISLAND AND ALL THE TOWNS ARE INVOLVED. THIS AVOIDS SENDING GROUPS AWAY AND LIMITS THE COST TO THE TOWN. IT IS A \$2,500. EXPENSE FOR EDGARTOWN'S SHARE.

PETER NOTED THAT HIS BUDGET FOR FY16 HAS HAD TO ABSORB THE ABOVE INCREASES AND OTHER EXPENSES. HE EXPECTS TO BE SHORT BY \$11,000. PAM MENTIONED THAT THEY SHOULD KEEP CLOSE WATCH ON SPENDING AND SUBMIT AN ARTICLE FOR STM TO AVOID USING THE RESERVE FUND. THE FY17 BUDGETS WILL BE SUBMITTED IN DECEMBER AND THEY WILL HAVE A BETTER PICTURE OF INCREASES BY THAT TIME. THE FAC ASKED FOR A COPY OF THE EXPENDITURES FROM THE ACCOUNTANT THROUGH OCTOBER. PAM ASKED IS THE DONATIONS MADE FOR THE POLICE BOAT COULD BE USED TO OFF-SET SOME INSURANCE COSTS. THEY HAVE ABOUT \$25,000. IN THAT RESERVE.

CHIEF ROSSI INTRODUCED HIMSELF TO THE FAC. THIS IS HIS FIRST MEETING SINCE BECOMING CHIEF OF POLICE. DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE OVER TRAINING COSTS AND THE NEED FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION OF OFFICERS. AT THIS TIME, HE IS DOWN SEVERAL PEOPLE DUE TO INJURIES, SO HE EXPECTS OVERTIME COSTS TO RISE. HE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST ONE MORE FULL-TIME OFFICER. THERE ARE 18 FULL TIME NOW. A REPORT FROM JACK COLLINS, TOWN ATTORNEY, NOTED A SERIOUS LACK OF TRAINING FOR BOTH POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS AND THAT IT NEEDS TO BE INCREASED.

HE UPDATED THE FAC ON THE CONSTRUCTION TO BE DONE ON THE STATION. THE ROOF WILL NEED REPLACING SOON AND WORK CONTINUES ON THE INTERIOR REDESIGN OF THE OFFICES. THE AIR AND HEAT SYSTEMS HAVE BEEN UPGRADED. HE WAS APPROACHED ABOUT A DONATION FOR SPRUCING UP THE OUTSIDE LANDSCAPING.

BOTH DEPARTMENTS WERE URGED TO GET IN TOUCH WITH CAPITAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE AND INFORM THEM OF THE INCREASED NEEDS OF THEIR DEPARTMENTS.

LISA SHERMAN, NEW DIRECTOR OF THE LIBRARY AND BOB AVAKIAN, TRUSTEE, PRESENTED A HANDOUT TO THE FAC. THEY HAVE BEEN TO THE PERSONNEL BOARD TO DISCUSS NEXT YEAR'S INCREASES. HOWEVER, THE LIBRARY IS EXPECTED TO OPEN IN JANUARY, 2016 AND BECAUSE OF INCREASED COVERAGE AND HOURS, THEY WILL BE FALLING SHORT IN FY16'S BUDGET. SHE HAS PROPOSED TO INCREASE HOURS OF PART-TIME BENEFITED EMPLOYEES TO HELP WITH COVERAGE.

PAM POINTED OUT THAT THIS IS PROBABLY THE MOST ACCURATE ASSESSMENT OF THE LIBRARY'S NEEDS FOR THE NEW BUILDING. DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ABOUT HOURS OF OPERATION AND IF THEY COULD POSSIBLY BE OPEN LATER OR MORE EVENINGS FOR WORKING PEOPLE/STUDENTS TO USE. SHE WAS ASKED IF VOLUNTEERS ARE AVAILABLE AND THEY DO HAVE SEVERAL. IT WAS MENTIONED THAT SHE COULD CONTACT THE HIGH SCHOOL GUIDANCE OFFICE FOR INTERNS/STUDENTS. THEY ARE REQUIRED TO SPEND PART OF THE YEAR WORKING AT CAREER CHOICE JOBS AND THEY COULD BE A GREAT BENEFIT FOR DESK COVERAGE, ETC. SHE WILL DO THAT SOON.

OVERALL, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE STAFFING MUST BE AVAILABLE FOR THE INCREASED SIZE AND HOURS. THEY SUGGESTED THAT WHEN THEY OPEN IN 2016, IT WILL BE A BETTER PICTURE OF WHAT IS WORKING AND NOT WORKING. THE LIBRARY CAN SUBMIT A STM ARTICLE FOR THE SHORTAGES IN PAYROLL AND WORK ON THE FY17 BUDGET. THE FAC ASKED TO BE KEPT INFORMED OF COSTS. IT WAS NOTED THAT MOVING COSTS BUDGETED \$25,000., AND PAM SUGGESTED USING THE TOWN TRUCKS, ETC. TO HELP REDUCE THOSE EXPENSES.

PAM DISCUSSED UPCOMING INCREASES. THE TOWN WILL BE DOING A NEW EMPLOYEE CLASSIFICATION PLAN THIS YEAR. ANY CHANGES WILL INCREASE DEPARTMENTS COSTS. FREE CASH MAY BE CERTIFIED AT \$1.8 MILLION. SHE SUGGESTED LARGE DEPARTMENTS WITH INCREASING COSTS START TO SET ASIDE A SUM OF MONEY EACH YEAR AT TOWN MEETING SO THEY WILL HAVE A CUSHION AND NOT BE ASKING FOR LARGE SUMS ALL AT THE SAME TIME. ARTICLES FOR ATM ARE DUE NOV. 20TH; BUDGETS ARE DUE DECEMBER 15TH. BOOKS SHOULD BE READY BEFORE CHRISTMAS AND MEETINGS WILL START EARLY JANUARY.

MEETING NEXT MONTH WILL BE NOVEMBER 18 AT 4:15 PM. THIS MAY CHANGE DUE TO SOME MEMBERS BEING AWAY. WE WILL BE MEETING WITH WASTEWATER; WATER AND CENTER FOR LIVING IF THEY ARE AVAILABLE. THE CPC MEETING TO DECIDE PROJECTS WILL BE OCTOBER 29TH AT 4 PM.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,  
GAIL AVAKIAN, ASSISTANT