

Budget Meeting – January 8, 2013  
4 PM

Members present: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Chairman; Les Baynes, Co-chairman; Mort Fearey, Jr.; Alex Rentumis; Steve Jordan; Fred Condon; Bob Clay.

Pamela Dolby, Town Administrator; Margaret E. Serpa and Arthur Smadbeck, Selectmen.

4PM – Police – Tony Bettencourt, Chief; Tracy Giacomini, Assistant. Chief discussed his FY14 budget. Most of the increases are for longevity and step raises for 8 officers and two seasonal hires. The contract is in place for this year. A change was implemented to have more officers on the night differential shift, which results in higher pay. The need for more coverage was the key reason for the change, due to the sheer numbers of summer visitors. Insurance costs were discussed and Pam informed the FAC that in 2015 the town's insurance package will go out to bid, hopefully; resulting in lower costs for all town departments. Discussion centered around the fire/police rescue boat that will be in service this summer. To date, they have collected almost \$150,000. in donations for outfitting the boat. It is expected to have an officer, a fireman and/or an emt on the boat while in the harbor. Tony expressed that both departments have long waited for a service such as this to better serve the boating visitors and residents on the hard-to-reach water areas. The FAC asked that use be documented over the summer months for next year's budget meetings. Warrant article has been changed from 3 cruisers to 2 cruisers, cost to be adjusted on the final draft.

4:30PM Fire – Peter Shemeth, Chief; Alex Schaeffer, Dep. Chief – Discussion took place about changing the method used to pay volunteer firemen. Peter explained that most of the members participate in the meetings, practices and drills held during the course of the year. Some other do not participate, yet all are given the same stipend. He is exploring a method to reward those who take the time out to improve their education. Most of the training is done on weekends, which requires a lot of time on the volunteer's part and he would like to see a more even process. Also, for years, members have volunteered up to 12 hrs. a shift for coverage on 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This would also be included in the stipend increase. Peter hopes to maintain a volunteer department as long as possible, as the cost of an employee-based department would be prohibitive. There are 3 warrant articles for the fire: \$734,832. to replace two trucks and eliminate one in service. The second article for cardiac monitors is \$70,000. which may be postponed, as the department is in the process of grant applications. The third article covers electronic locking devices for the ambulance medications.

4:45PM Ambulance – Alex Schaeffer, Dep. Chief/Amb. Coordinator – Alex explained the increases to the budget will be for high insurance costs, internet and computer reporting services. The plan is to hire a new full-time person to eliminate the need for expensive overtime coverage. The cost savings will be valid as overtime is a huge part of the budget. He explained that last summer an intern on a grant saved the department about \$19,000. just in the summer months. Calls for service increased by 61 over 2011. There are 5 full time EMT's and about 35-40 who work the weekly shifts with the paramedics on a run-stipend basis.

5PM – MV Commission – Brian Smith; Curt Schroeder; Jim Joyce; Christina Brown; Mark London, Exec. Director – The MVC presented the FY14 budget and explained the increases in the DC Retirement contribution and the increased legal fees. The FAC asked for an explanation regarding the salaries request and how they determine increases. Mark London explained that while the town's use a step and COLA basis for raises, the commission uses a performance basis rather than steps and determines their COLA based on the participating town's average. Discussion took place over this method and resulted in a request for a breakdown of the job descriptions and the present salary for each position. Names were asked not to be included. The FAC and Selectmen want to see this information. Also, since Edgartown pays 37% of the total cost of the commission, they would like to have more information on how those funds are allocated. Unless there is legislative change, the town really has no control over the use of its funds. It was noted that the County uses an advisory board with members from each town and it was thought this would be helpful to the town's and the commission to have outside guidelines as well. Many questions

were asked how the MVC determines what projects it will work on and does the MVC charge anything extra for these services. Mark London said he would gather more information and send it to the town.

The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.