

Budget Meeting Hearing – January 9, 2013
4 PM

Members present: Les Baynes, Co-chairman; Mort Fearey, Jr.; Steve Jordan; Alex Rentumis and Bob Clay.

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

4PM – Animal Control – one of the FAC members asked that animal control be on the hearing agenda; however, they were not at the meeting today. There were a few questions regarding the department and there are no warrant articles.

4:15PM - Harbormaster – Charles Blair, Harbormaster and Sara Tiemann, Adm. Assistant – Charlie discussed the changes in the harbor and the lack of seasonal boaters using the harbor services. The daytrippers are mostly gone, yet the moorings still are full due to longer term users. There is still a 20 year wait for a mooring. A list is posted at the HM office and on the bulletin board. He explained that users will be required to prove they have paid their town's excise tax. This amount varies, but is split between the town and state, based on registrations. He also was in favor of the police/fire rescue boat. He feels this is a long overdue service that should be available to the hundreds of people using the harbor and outlying beaches. Articles are for \$30,000. for equipment maintenance/replacement of mooring system; \$30,000. for maintenance and replacement of dock tie-offs, floats, etc. for town owned docks; and \$38,000. for a new 4 wheel drive pickup truck to replace the 12 year old one. Pam explained that some of the funding will come from the waterways improvement funds.

4:30PM – MV Refuse District – Don Hatch, District Manager – Discussion took place about future expansions and programs for the district. New state regulations will require that food waste be separated from the wastestream and composted. Steps are being taken to work on that regulation. Transportation remains the costliest item in the budget. He noted that the station does take credit cards for payment. Future expansion needs were also discussed.

4:40PM – Dredge – Hal Kelly, Chairman; Shelley O'Neil, assistant; Dudley Levick; Paul Bagnall(Shellfish rep); Peter Vincent (CC rep); Don Benefit; Gary Look, advisory committee.
Mr. Kelly informed the FAC of the new regulations in place for future dredge projects. Significant changes have been made. At this time, the crew is designated as "seasonal" and only allowed 640 hours for a 16 week period to avoid unemployment charges from the state. The crew usually spends the off-permit time to work and repair the 18 year old dredge. Maintenance is always a costly and time consuming effort. With the shortened allowance of hours, this may have to be contracted out and could prove more costly than using the crew in place. Questions were asked about private projects and how many there are at this time. Vineyard Haven has inquired about using the dredge for their work, but permits are not yet in place. The permitting from the state or Army Corps is the most difficult part of any anticipated project and are hard to receive. At this time, town counsel is writing new guidelines for private project dredge usage. While this results in a slow-down for the dredge and its income production, in the long run the department will be better able to perform their duties which will result in greater revenue to the town. The process will take some time to revamp what is in place now. The sale of sand will generate some revenue this year. Permit applications have been submitted and are in limbo at this time. Costs to move the dredge in and out of the water is about \$15,000. The benefits from past dredging projects have been seen in Sengekontacket shellfishing beds, Dyke Bridge and Pocha Pond. The FAC would like to have additional meetings during the year as the new rules and regulations are developed.

It was decided to incorporate the January 17th recommend/not recommend meeting on January 16th after any call-backs are completed. There will be no meeting on January 17th. Pam will contact Jim Weiss, Superintendent of Schools for a separate report showing state mandate increases and what is sent to the town from the state. Also, the committee would like to have more information on the specifications for the new superintendent's office building. After discussion, it was felt that the superintendent's budget needs the most discussion as the elementary and high school budgets are more or less fixed costs plus contract increases.

Next meeting on Monday, January 14 will be at 4:30 pm , following the Selectmen's meeting. The schools and superintendent are the only items for that meeting. The meeting on January 15th will be: regional housing; Dukes County; Highway and computer technology. The meeting on January 16th will be for any department's called back and for the articles for the Annual Town Meeting and/or Special Town Meeting, if available.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm