

Budget Hearing Meeting – January 15, 2013
4 PM

Members Present: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Chairman; Les Baynes, Co-chairman; Bob Clay; Alex Rentumis;
Pamela Dolby, Town Administrator; Margaret E. Serpa and Arthur Smadbeck, Selectmen

4PM – DC Regional Housing Authority – David Vigneault, Director – The DCRHA presented their FY14 budget, up about 2.5% from last fiscal year. Salary increases are about 2.2%, cost of living adjustment and step increases as well as one employee eligible for longevity. He discussed the lack of state subsidy for public housing based on income. He noted that refinancing last year saved about \$14,000. He noted that the DCRHA does utilize the assistance of TRI and the CDBG grants, funds available for housing repairs. Art Smadbeck commended the work done by the Authority under David's supervision. He noted that the 50/50 formula (funding averages population and equalized valuation for each town) is being utilized in other Island-wide negotiations.

4:25PM – Art Smadbeck spoke as the selectmen's representative to Dukes County. He discussed that the island-wide committee is attempting to lower the county's assessments, however; they will not use the 50/50 formula. Some non-mandated programs have been moved from the county budget to articles on town meeting floor, ie; rodent control program and health care access. This gives the voters greater control. Amounts previous mandated to be paid to the state for former employees will come to an end next year. This will save Edgartown \$155,000. however; it is being discussed to continue funding this and redirecting it to OPEB deficits.

4:35PM – Highway – Stuart Fuller, Superintendent – Stuart updated the FAC on his budget request for FY14. He had meetings this past fall with the committee. He noted that his light costs will be reduced as they are converting to LED bulbs through CapeLight Compact. The solar project when up and running will also help lower electric costs. His articles were discussed. First article is \$155,000 for repaving. He discussed the increased cost of asphalt and how this increase is affecting his ability to pave as many roads as in the past. Costs have risen about 70% over the past few years. Article 2 is \$55,000. for sidewalks, paths and storm drains. Article 3 is for \$193,004. in anticipation of state reimbursement funds, Chapter 303. Article 4 is to replace the bodies of the 1995 and 1997 dump trucks. He explained that these two vehicles are in excellent mechanical condition, but because they are salt trucks, the beds have rusted out. He would like to keep them as long as possible as they are easier to new trucks to repair and maintain. Article 5 is for \$20,000. for an anti-icing system. This will reduce the hard salt to a liquor form that can be sprayed on the roads prior to a snowstorm and reduce the use of hard salt after plowing. It is the same salt used on the roads now, so the environmental impact will not change due to run-off. Article 6 is for \$20,000. for cleaning storm drains.

Pam discussed that she would have the Articles ready on January 16th for the FAC to vote. She noted that there will be a special town meeting before the annual. She just received notice from the Council on Aging that they will have to bid out for a new roof. Rot was discovered in several places during the painting project. The director is expecting the amount to total about \$30,000. to cover all the areas that need repair. The committee also noted that they would like to see Stuart come back to them with a master plan. If the cost of asphalt continues to rise, fewer streets will be paved and will end up costing the town in the long run. By planning out the next few years, it may be possible to have more of the money come from articles or free cash or even override votes if necessary. The FAC agreed it was beneficial to see departments prior to the budget hearings and want to continue the practice during the upcoming year.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 pm. An email will be sent to all members to remind them to attend on January 16th to vote the articles.