

Budget Hearing Meeting – January 16, 2013
4 pm

Members Present: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Chairman; Les Baynes, Co-Chairman; Alex Rentumis; Bob Clay; Barbara Shriber; Steve Jordan; Mort Fearey, Jr.

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

A motion was made to approve the minutes for January 8, January 9, January 14 and January 15, 2013. Seconded and approved. Unanimous.

Pam Dolby presented the draft warrant articles for the FAC review. She also gave the committee details on the levy analysis for FY13.

She informed the committee that the high school COLA would be \$126,000 and the elementary school would be \$65,000. There are still other contract negotiations in progress. The regular employees COLA would be about \$146,000. State aid cuts won't be known until summer. She noted that if the town approves the warrant as it is now, the town would have about \$790,108 in free cash. She estimated the STM warrant to be about \$100,000 in articles.

She informed the committee that the parking lot on Chappy is in dire need of repair. She will be adding an article for \$100,000. (later amended to \$180,000-\$190,000. by email) to begin repairs. She noted also that the fire trucks and water tower painting will be override articles as is the paving. No funds will be allocated toward the stabilization fund on this warrant. Funding of \$150,000. for OPEB is in the operating budget.

A motion was made to approve the list as amended. Seconded and approved. Unanimous.

Donna Lowell-Bettencourt began the recommend/not recommend process by reading the number of the articles. Anyone who had any questions or remarks was asked to inform the FAC and they would pass on that article.

A motion was made; seconded and voted to approve Articles 4-48, with the exception of 38, 45 and 46 for discussion. Motion was seconded and approved. Unanimous.

Discussion for Article 38 – Park Dept. 4- trak vehicles - \$17,000. Question was raised if the vehicles are actually a trak vehicle or an ATV-style. It is an ATV and the article will be corrected.

Discussion for Article 45 – Design study for Superintendent's Building. - \$40,000. Discussion took place about the cost. A feasibility study suggested that the present building in VH is not in condition to be rehabbed. It is not currently handicap accessible and the 18 people who occupy the building are cramped and without office space. Discussion took place whether this is a capital article and that it will be part of the high school budget. The school formula for town shares was also discussed.

Discussion for Article 46 – D.C. Integrated Pest Mgmt Program - \$20,488.32. Discussion took place about the scope of work that the program will provide the towns. Also, Tisbury may be in the process of creating their own pest control. It was decided that Mr. Hagerty should visit the FAC in February or March with more informational data on exactly what he does for the Town.

A motion was made; seconded and voted to accept Articles 38, 45 and 46 as written. Unanimous.

All financial articles on the draft warrant were approved by the FAC.

Questions were brought up for future FAC meetings. They would like to have wastewater, dredge, highway with a master plan, Edgartown School – pupil costs and Superintendent's office to discuss mandated programs and the pest control department of the county to attend. The MVC should also return

with a further breakdown of their balance sheet and any reserve accounts. Pest Control will be asked to visit in February if he is available. Bob Clay also had several questions he wanted read into the minutes to get everyone's opinion.

Schools – do we think an outside service could affordably look at our school expenses and meaningfully compare the cost of operating our schools with the cost to operate school in other communities.

Should we write our police and fire chiefs? First, tell them we think they are doing a good job protecting us and maintaining all the equipment under their charge. The second part of that letter might say that given the uncertainty of our economy, would they please try to keep future budgets level-funded or somewhere under 3% if possible.

Debt review – meeting with Lisa Dickinson, Unibank and perhaps the treasurer regarding debt service and the town's capacity for future borrowing.

Katama Airport – discuss the upcoming contracts that will be changing in the next few months.

Ask selected departments to give the FAC a 6- month budget update.

Pam and the selectmen, as well as the rest of the FAC, thought they were all valid questions that should be discussed. Pam said she would try to get Lisa Dickinson for the February meeting and perhaps ask Stuart to the March meeting if is able to present a master plan.

A motion was made; seconded and voted to include an article on the warrant for paving the Chappaquiddick ferry lot, amount TBD. Unanimous. (Note: an email was sent Jan. 17, 2013 with a figure of \$180,000-\$190,000. from the town administrator. This amount would allow the highway dept. to do the project all at once rather than in sections).

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm.