

FINANCIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 18, 2013 – 4 PM

MEMBERS PRESENT: DONNA LOWELL-BETTENCOURT, CHAIR; LES BAYNES, CO-CHAIR; STEVE JORDAN; MORT FEAREY, JR.; BOB CLAY; ALEX RENTUMIS

ALSO PRESENT: MARILYN WORTMAN, PERSONNEL; JOHN STEVENS, EDGARTOWN SCHOOL PRINCIPAL; DR. JAMES WEISS, SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT; SUSAN MERCIER, SCHOOL COMMITTEE; PAMELA DOLBY, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR.

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 4 PM. A MOTION WAS MADE, SECONDED AND VOTED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 19, 2013 MINUTES. UNANIMOUS.

MARILYN WORTMAN WAS PRESENT TO BRING THE COMMITTEE UP TO DATE ON HEALTH CARE REFORM AND HOW IT MIGHT AFFECT THE TOWN PERSONNEL WHEN IT GOES INTO EFFECT JANUARY 1, 2014. DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE REGARDING SOME MAJOR BUSINESSES WHO ARE MOVING THEIR RETIREES INTO THE NEW SYSTEM AND ELIMINATING THEIR PLANS. MARILYN EXPLAINED THAT SINCE THE TOWN IS GOVERNED BY CHAPTER 32B, VESTED RETIREES NEED TO BE COVERED BY THE TOWN. CHAPTER 32B WOULD NEED TO BE AMENDED FOR THAT TO CHANGE.

SHE NOTED THAT EMPLOYEES WOULD BE AT NO ADVANTAGE TO HAVE THE NEW COVERAGE. THE TOWN WOULD NOT BE OBLIGATED TO COVER THEIR 75% AND THIS WOULD COST THE EMPLOYEE MORE OUT OF POCKET. ALSO, ANY EMPLOYEES COVERED BY A UNION WOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE TO ACCEPT ANY CHANGE.

EDGARTOWN CONTINUES TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR OPEB EACH TOWN MEETING. MORE TOWNS ARE GOING TO 50-50 COVERAGE AND ALSO MAKING CHANGES TO THE DEFINED BENEFITS.

JOHN STEVENS AND DR. WEISS AND SUSAN MERCIER WERE PRESENT TO UPDATE THE FAC ON THE UPCOMING BUDGET INCREASES. SPECIAL EDUCATION MANDATES CONTINUE TO INCREASE AND THIS YEAR WILL BE NO DIFFERENT. LAST YEAR'S INCREASE WAS ABOUT 6.3%; THIS YEAR IT IS EXPECTED TO BE 4.79%. PAM DOLBY MENTIONED THAT THE SOLAR PROJECT WOULD BE IN PLACE IN NOVEMBER AND THIS WILL HELP TRIM THE SCHOOL AND OTHER LARGE DEPARTMENTS ENERGY COSTS. THE SELECTMEN ALSO PLAN TO INCLUDE THE COST OF MEDICAL PLANS INTO EACH DEPARTMENT'S INDIVIDUAL BUDGETS. THIS WILL GIVE A BETTER PICTURE OF WHAT THESE BENEFITS COST. MR. STEVENS SAID THAT THE MATH ENRICHMENT PROGRAM IS NOW IN THE BUDGET AND WILL HAVE A REPORT AT NEXT SCHOOL MEETING. HE PLANS TO ADD NO NEW STAFF. THERE ARE NO RESIDENTIAL PLACEMENTS AT THIS TIME. THAT COULD CHANGE IF SOMEONE TRANSFERS TO EDGARTOWN. HE THINKS HAVING THE MEDICAL COVERAGE IN HIS BUDGET IS A GOOD IDEA.

DR. WEISS DISCUSSED A HANDOUT FOR THE UPCOMING BRIDGE PROGRAMS AND THE COSTS OF THE "KNOWN" CHILDREN IT WILL SERVE. AS THE STATE GOVERNS THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN IN A CLASS, A NEW TEACHER WILL BE NEEDED IN A FEW YEARS. HIS PRINTOUTS COVER THE IDENTIFIED CHILDREN AT RISK, THERE ARE ALWAYS SOME ON THE CUSP. HE DISCUSSED SHARED SERVICES AND HOW THIS ACTUALLY SAVES TOWNS MONEY. HE GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE HANDOUT. HE REITERATED THEY ARE OBLIGATED UNDER STATE LAWS TO PROVIDE THE SPECIAL

PROGRAMS IN PLACE AND THAT COSTS MUST BE COVERED, AT THE EXPENSE OF OTHER PROGRAMS.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:30 PM. THE NEXT MEETING WAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER 16, 2013.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
GAIL AVAKIAN, ASSISTANT