

Financial Advisory Committee

Departmental Meetings – December 5, 2013

Present: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt; Les Baynes; Alex Rentumis; Tom Durawa; BobClay;

Others Present: Margaret Serpa , Selectman; Pam Dolby, Town Administrator; Jo Ann Resendes, Assessors' office; Laurence Mercier, Donna Goodale-Cavallo, Assessors. Marilyn Wortman, Personnel Board.

Meeting called to order at 11:30 am. – Marilyn Wortman was present to update the Fincom on the job rate changes for seasonal hires. Rates have not been updated for more than 6 years. They removed the lower step rates for 1 and 2 and added new rates on the higher end. These rates do not include COLA at this time. Regular salary request will be up \$10,000. from \$260,000. to \$270,000. and overtime will be up \$1,000. These increases put parks/rec salaries more in line with other Island towns. It was noted that the Selectmen are in favor of the increases. It was also thought that maybe increases should be on a five year plan. COLA is expected to be 1.5% this year for regular employees.

Assessors' Office – Jo Ann Resendes, Larry Mercier and Donna Cavallo were present to discuss the budget for the Assessors'. A surplus of funds from abatement cases won by the town will continue to be used for revaluations. All salary increases are longevity only as all employees are at the top step.

The state had been trying to reduce the valuation on the state-owned lands. The town was successful in stopping the change by appealing two times. It is now back where it belongs on the cherry sheet, an increase of about \$175,000. from last year. A copy of the assessors' budget was emailed to all, due to corrections that needed to be made on the crystal report.

The board was updated on the MVC preliminary budget. They are requesting a 4.5% increase – 2% merit and 2.5% COLA. It is up \$400,000. from FY15. Discussion took place on the procedures that they apply and whether or not the Fincom and Selectmen even wanted to meet with them, due to their lack of cooperation to make any attempt to lower their budgets. It was suggested that we ask Christina Brown, Jim Joyce and Madeline Fisher, our representatives to the MVC to attend the meeting on 12/11 and let them discuss the fincom's situation with them. Many felt that for the amount of money allocated to the MVC, the town could create their own positions and do a better job for Edgartown. It was suggested that a non-binding question be placed on the ballot in April to see how voters feel about leaving the Commission.

The school is holding a meeting on 12/11 at 9:30 am in the Edg. Elementary school. All members are invited to attend. Discussion took place on the ever increasing requests for funding programs and that at some point, the town's cannot sustain these requests. Regional budgets are starting to stunt the regular departments' needs.

The Fincom will meet on 12/11/13 at 4 pm with water; wastewater and MVC representatives.
The budget meetings will continue in January, times and dates to be determined.
There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Gail Avakian,
Assistant