

Chilmark Select Board & FinCom FY25 Budget Hearing January 25, 2024 4:00 PM Meeting
Minutes

Present: Select Board: Chairperson Rossi, James Malkin and Marie Larsen.

FinCom: Chairperson Murphy, Linda Coutinho, Deb Hancock, Vicki Divoll, Bruce Golden, Don Leopold and Marshall Carroll. Others: Tim Carroll, D. Barnes, Sarah Smith, Keith Emin, Ryan Rossi, Seth Karlinsky, Fire Chief Jeremy Bradshaw, TTA Chief Ben Retmier, Carolyn Stoeber, Judy Flanders, Peter Graczykowski, Jack Reagan, Diana DeBlase. MVTV videographer Lynn Christoffers.

Sheriff Department:

Peter Graczykowski and Jack Reagan presented this budget. Mr. Graczykowski said Mr. Reagan is a new hire at the Sheriff's Department and brought him along to understand the process of the budget hearings, in preparation of the future when he is retired. Ms. Divoll said this department has consistently understood our direction for budget the past few years and support considering bringing into town budget rather than keeping as a warrant article. This warrant article is \$27,446.18 to support maintenance cost of MV Public Safety Communication System. Marshall asked for explanation of assessment data. Mr. Graczykowski explained. Chairperson Murphy thanked Mr. Graczykowski for clear communication and presentation.

Cemetery #491:

Judy Flanders of the Cemetery Commission and Carolyn Stoeber the Board Administrator were present for this budget. Ms. Flanders explained increase is due to opening up more (plot) space. Ms. Flanders said we just received notice from our long time contractor he will be increasing his hourly charge for grass cutting.

Chairperson Murphy who is also the Cemetery Superintendent said we raised buildings and ground maintenance line from \$26,000 to \$30,000.

Over all the budget increased by 0.01%

Highway Department # 422:

Highway Superintendent Keith Emin was present for these (Snow & Ice too) budgets.

Tim Carroll talked about budget line 5246 highway maintenance and possibility of engineering with MV Commission. Engineering was always done by Kent Healy but since he passed away we don't have his services anymore. MVC is offering towns to join in to get these services for \$15,000 per year.

Mr. Emin continued through this budget highlighting the increases:

#5101 tree warden \$50.00

Overtime compensation \$3,000.00

Detail for police increased slightly

Snow & Ice # 423:

This budget unchanged, to remain at \$30,000.

Mr. Golden asked why you need bottled water. Mr. Golden said he would like the town to be more aware of the waste and detriment bottled water has on our environment. Mr. Emin said there is no running water at the shed or a toilet. Ms. Murphy said we will continue the water discussion.

Tri –Town Ambulance # 230/231:

Ambulance Chief Ben Retmier was present for this budget.

Chief Retmier gave explanation to increases to budget:

- Off season EMTs \$225.00 and Dayshift EMTs \$250.00 daily pay
- New Line item: Salary Increase Class & Comp Study \$35,000 classification reserve. Chief Retmier said if this is not recommended by the compensation study, would return back to town.
- Expenses up 4.22% \$26,000 health insurance and OPEB increases
- Fuel and contractual increases

Chief Retmier discussed the revenue aspect of this budget:

Total \$1,814,881.73 Revenue \$226,000+ assessment will go down pending revenues

Debt service of new Ambulance HQ bonding is \$6,640,000 split evenly between the three towns part of assessment to the three towns. Mr. Malkin said the cost of bonding less than we had anticipated.

Chief Retmier discussed the forgiveness or waiver for residents experiencing financial hardships.

Chairperson Rossi asked how the sleeping situation is at the new station. Chief Retmier said great. Only complaint was from employee who wanted a full bed rather than a twin that we have.

Ms. Larsen why increase day rate prior to Collin's Center compensation study results. Chief Retmier said the positions are outside of the study.

Chairperson Rossi asked how the meeting room is working. Retmier said great. Explained that town boards and departments have utilized the meeting room and the process is to reach out to Chief or Admin Assistant to book the space.

Harbor # 295 & Comfort Station # 199:

Harbormaster Ryan Rossi and Seth Karlinsky were present for these budgets. Harbormaster Rossi started with the Comfort Station budget saying that other purchase services increased with contract. Ms. Hancock said Menemsha Water Co. - \$30,000 budget may be too high. Ms. Hancock said believe actual cost is \$21,000. Harbormaster Rossi said if less cost, then absolutely lower. Mr. Malkin said if we can get something in writing we need to budget from our history.

Ms. Murphy asked for confirmation. Harbormaster Rossi said he would contact Menemsha Water and return with that information.

Harbor expenses are level funded slight increase to budget is salary obligations (COLA and step increase) Mr. Malkin (select Board liaison to Harbor) said the traffic concerns from residents was worked on and the harbor department improved that this past year.

Harbormaster Rossi said last FY24 we made extreme cuts to keep tax rate from increasing. The prior year Pile budget line raised to \$50,000 from \$30,000 and dredging lines \$0 to \$30,000 would like to be on mind for future. And bring back into the budget.

Tim Carroll said Menemsha Water responded now that next year harbor water = \$17,380.00

Comfort Station = \$5,154.00

Ms. Coutinho said level funding should be department heads looking at past use and adjust rather than just leaving it unchanged from last year. Mr. Malkin said our direction to departments was don't increase budget other than salary contractual and insurance increases.

Tim Carroll recommended to move Menemsha water funding go to pilings.

Harbormaster Rossi was asked to discuss harbor Warrant Articles for Annual Town Meeting:

- \$40,000 transfer from Water Ways replace staircases on Dutcher dock float and support pile. Should funding in the waterways fund to cover this.
- \$30,000 dredging permitting is completed so we can move forward. Permits are in effect for the next 10 years.
- \$12,000 guard-rail on Basin Rd Bridge
- \$3,600 storage sheds for Comfort Station
- \$20,000 lining sewage pipe from Comfort Station to septic tank.

Mr. Malkin asked where we are with Chockers dredging. Harbormaster Rossi said check with Shellfish Constable as he is the applicant for that one.

Ms. Divoll asked if Crab Creek can be swimming area again. Harbormaster Rossi said advice of legal counsel is no swimming in Crab Creek.

Don Leopold recommended revisit the requested budget lines for dredging and piles

Chairperson Murphy said we should note this for later discussion when we have a bigger picture of the proposed budgets.

Marshall Carroll asked for information on Harbor revenue. Harbormaster said it was good. Generated more than years past. Harbormaster Rossi said estimate \$416,000.

Fire # 220:

Chief Bradshaw presented this budget.

Salary lines:

Increases are in salary and wages on call from \$100 to \$150 for 12 hour shift. Chief explained he gets 1 of every third weekend off. Chief Bradshaw said this would also cover some of the Short-term rental inspections. Chief said this year of my contract I have 5 weeks' vacation that need coverage.

Chief Bradshaw discussed the increases to this proposed budget.

Line# 5125 \$ 39,000 to \$52,000 (15 officers)

Line #5126 Fire Fighters \$30,000 to \$33,600

Line # 5140 on call increased \$15,000 to \$25,600.00

Expenses:

Electricity up to \$5,000.00 as we don't know exact figures of use with a brand new station

Heating fuel \$2,500 to \$3,500 propane in new building (truck bays) not just electricity.

Facilities cleaners' 5242 new line \$4,608.00

Accountant Smith made copies of budget sheet for Fire Department to be distributed to aid following discussion.

Ms. Divoll asked for clarifications on increases to expenses lines. Chief Bradshaw explained with new station and new equipment for 40 plus firefighters.

Mr. Leopold said this budget is up 21% when we asked for level funding. Chief Bradshaw said we have a drinking water station so we can remove bottled water line.

Chairman Rossi recommended to establish a capacity. As in the maximum number of firefighters.

Chairperson Murphy asked how the new truck is working. Fire chief said great though getting warranty service for a glitch in brake. Restraint and priorities.

Chief Bradshaw said the Turbo draft purchased with fundraising and donations. We are actively fundraising to help support our department.

Tim Carroll said if you compare this budget to TTA you can see how much less Fire department is.

Chief Bradshaw said he instituted new alarm system if pay \$250 get blanket and extinguisher and we won't charge false alarm fee. Don Leopold said please look at your proposed \$70,000 increase and see where you can lower if possible.

Warrant articles:

- Transfer from Stabilization \$ 24,210.00 to 121 finish setup of new truck
- UTV \$22,350 KMN 6 Wheel / essential for brush fires
- \$10,500.00 for 3 sets of turnout gear

D. Barnes handed out the S&P reports.

At 6:18 PM with no further agenda items for discussion Chairperson Murphy moved to adjourn.

Marshall Carroll seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 7 Ayes**

Select Board Chair Rossi moved to adjourn, Ms. Larsen seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase. FinCom: APPROVED 02/01/2024

Document list: Select Board: Approved 02/06/2024

- Accountant Smith's updated budget documents to aid in review of budgets.