

Chilmark FY24 Budget Hearing #4 January 25, 2023 4:00 PM Meeting Minutes

Present: FinCom: Chairperson Susan Murphy, Vicki Divoll, Eric Glasgow, Bruce Golden, Don Leopold and Marshall Carroll. Rob Hannemann was not present. Select Board: James Malkin, Bill Rossi and Warren Doty were not present. Others: Town Administrator Tim Carroll, Accountant Ellen Biskis, Treasurer D. Barnes, Harbormaster Ryan Rossi, Shellfish Constable Isaiah Scheffer, Emma Green-Beach-Scheffer, Police Sargent Sean Slavin, Clarissa Allen, Alison Kisselgof, Marie Larsen

At 4:30 PM Chairperson Murphy called the meeting to order in the Chilmark Community Center at 520 South Road Chilmark.

Chairperson Murphy announced that the order of agenda would be changed slightly to get some quicker budgets completed before moving into the more complex budgets. Chairperson Murphy reminded all that we needed to be completely out of the building by 6:00 PM tonight.

Budget #691 Historical Committee:

Administrator Alison Kisselgof presented this budget. Ms. Kisselgof said change to the budget is the membership fees. There were no questions on this budget. Chairperson Murphy thanked Ms. Kisselgof.

Budget #650 Park & Recreation:

Chairperson Murphy said this budget total is \$200.00 and has not changed in many years. There will be a meeting in February and we will have clear picture what that funding is for. Tim Carroll said historically it is used for mowing the ballfield at Peaked Hill Pastures Road.

Budget #630 Beach Committee:

Chairperson Clarissa Allen was present for this budget. Ms. Allen said Martina Mastromonaco the Beach Superintendent is not here but that the only increase to this budget is the salary step, COLA and (3%) adjustment.

Chairperson Murphy said she is the FinCom liaison to the beach department and she has met with Martina about the budget and discussed it in great length and the beach just about pays for itself. Mr. Glasgow said he would like to see the data for that and see the revenue along with the budget. Accountant Biskis said that data is available within the new software. Mr. Glasgow asked when the fees to purchase beach passes last increased. Ms. Allen said 2 years ago. Marshall Carroll asked for clarification on the other purchase services budget line was overspent last year and did not raise this year is that enough and what is it spent on. Ms. Allen was unclear on the line as Ms. Mastromonaco was not present to say. Accountant Biskis said she received an email from Martina Mastromonaco Friday that had different figures than we are seeing here tonight so would appreciate Beach Committee confirming with Accountant the correct figures. Ms. Biskis said this is about the salaries lines.

Budget #299 Shellfish Department:

Shellfish Constable Isaiah Scheffer presented this budget. Constable Scheffer said we are maintaining our old equipment. Chairperson Murphy said it looks like your budget is hardly changing at all. Chairperson Murphy said there is the dredging permitting cost that was discussed to be funded. This is also linked to the harbor department \$85,000 warrant article for the engineering permitting for the dredging at Hariph's Creek and Chockers. Water quality deteriorating since loss of eelgrass.

Marshall Carroll said he had a question about the MV Shellfish Group budget part of the budget. Mr. Carroll said you are decreasing your building maintenance by 40 % and questioned if that is wise. Ms. Green-Beach-Scheffer said the decrease this year as facility had work done this year so able to reduce that figure this year. Ms. Green-Beach-Scheffer said the MVSG has been doing very well with fundraising to keep the town's portion as low as they can. Grant writing is an additional source of funding for the MVSG.

Chairperson Murphy had question about propagated quahogs. The concern is that the purple insides are now mostly white. MVSG is working to secure a large federal grant to look into this question. Harbormaster Rossi voiced his support for the dredging warrant article that Shellfish Department is seeking. Harbormaster Rossi said he will be working with the mooring permit holders to increase awareness of use ecofriendly bottom paints for the boats in our ponds. Also restricting mooring in areas we need to encourage eelgrass growth.

Budget #295 – Harbor Department:

Harbormaster Ryan Rossi presented this budget. Accountant Biskis explained budget should state \$374,003 adding new line is not worked into the software yet. Revenue is FY22\$318,952 FY21 was \$404,000.00.

Harbormaster Rossi started with explaining the salary line changes.

- Regraded Assistant Harbormaster from grade 6 to grade 8 to reflect the increase responsibility.
- Addition of Traffic Supervisor line at grade 8

Ms. Divoll asked for explanation on how traffic managing worked and how it will change with new position proposed. Harbormaster Rossi read aloud a letter that was presented to the Human Resources Board in support of an additional position of Traffic Supervisor.

Working with Police department with staffing for traffic management. Sargent Slavin said worked the 40 hour traffic officer back into the police budget. Marie Larsen up more than 24% and now another position making it 30%. Ms. Larsen said you were given a raise to grade 12 because you (harbormaster) were taking on the additional duties but now we are adding more positions and more cost and you are still getting the money seems we are throwing a lot of money at this and it did not work. Harbormaster Rossi said this is a valid concern. Marie Larsen would be good to have a woman on the harbor department. James Malkin said this is a growing budget. We have a growing traffic problem in Menemsha. Ms. Larsen said we need a solution to the problem not to throw more money at it.

Chairperson Murphy said it is a complex problem. This new position budgeted at grade 8 step 3 (\$34.19 per hour). 19 weeks for assistant harbormasters and Traffic Supervisor 14 weeks.

Mr. Malkin said we have had real hard time retaining traffic officers to help us for the Menemsha traffic problem.

Budget #295 – Harbor Department Continued...

Sargent Slavin said in years past we have seen over 50 cars at the Tabor House parking lot and having that amount of vehicles out of Menemsha is substantial and we need to increase the lot use again. Sargent Slavin said ridership was down because the bus was not always running; they were having a hard time staffing at the VTA. Bruce Golden said how about paid parking in Menemsha and make the Tabor lot free would that encourage less traffic. Online reserved parking online might work. Tim Carroll said there are 72 spots in Menemsha. Employee parking at the Tabor House lot was proposed. The problem with that is the VTA service started in the afternoon. Mr. Makin said he would reach out to the MVC for data on parking fees.

Harbormaster Rossi discussed the increases to the expense lines.

- Electricity up \$1,000.00
- Increase Menemsha water company dues increased
- Pilings were \$30,000.00 raised to \$50,000.00
- Facility maintenance \$16,000 to \$20,000
- Computer maintenance up to \$5,000.00
- Office supplies up to \$1,000.00
- \$1,500 boat fuel maintenance
- Re added water back \$1,000

Accountant Biskis said the % increase is nor correctly working in this software and will need to be corrected.

Harbormaster Rossi said we are proposing adding a line;

- Navigational dredging for \$20,000 to \$30,000.

Mr. Glasgow asked to discuss the revenues for this department. Are the significant additional budget increases expected to be reflected with increased revenues? Harbormaster Rossi said last year weather was much better that the previous year and estimated extra \$50,000 increase with good weather. Mr. Glasgow asked if the fee structure is being reviewed to support the increase in spending. Harbormaster Rossi said the Harbor Advisory Committee and he worked at reviewing all of the surrounding marinas and harbors and found we were at the bottom of the fee scale so last August we raised our rates. We did not see significate revenue increase as most of the season was reserved prior to the rate increase so we will see the revenue increase this season.

Warrant Articles

- \$55,000 west facing part of the filled dock repairs.
- \$53,000 annual dock repair and complete piling repairs replacement
- Raise channel dock by 2 feet project phase engineering
- \$15,000 electrical pedestal replacement
- \$3,000 10 moorings inspected

Ms. Larsen recommended the warrant articles listed should be added to budget. Tim Carroll said one of items are usually kept as warrant article so departments don't just get increase to budget.

Budget #199 - Comfort Station:

Harbormaster Rossi said this will be the same as this year. Tim Carroll said there may be some changes pending on the Facilities Maintenance position we are working on now. Chairperson Murphy said we can come back to this budget if changes are needed.

Budget # 210 – Police Department:

Sargent Slavin presented this budget. Sargent Slavin said some of the salary lines are place holders till we hire a new Police Chief the maximum is \$150,000.00 so we have included that maximum figure. Others positions are increase COLA step and adjustment. We are adding back in a limited capacity a traffic position for 40 hours a week. Pay this at \$28.00 an hour.

Sargent Slavin discussed all the increases and decreases to the budget. Vehicle fuel line needed to be increased. Increase to ammunition line needed explaining as they are not for bullets but the more expensive less-lethal ammunition. The Taser cartridges and beanbags. More training so instate travel was increased.

Warrant article:

- \$34,000 vehicle stabilization for electric cruiser.

Marie Larsen asked about expiration of ammunition. Sargent Slavin answered.

At 6:00 PM with no further items for discussion Chairperson Murphy asked for motion to adjourn. Mr. Glasgow moved to adjourn, Ms. Divoll seconded the motion.

SO VOTED: 6 Ayes, 1 not present

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase. **APPROVED 01/31/2023**

Document list:

- Harbormaster letter to Human Resource Board about rate increase for Assistant Harbormaster and addition to Traffic Supervisor Position.