

FY24 Budget Hearing #9 February 8, 2023 4:30 PM Meeting Minutes

Present: FinCom: Chairperson Susan Murphy, Vicki Divoll, Don Leopold, Bruce Golden, Rob Hannemann and Marshall Carroll. Eric Glasgow was not present. Select Board: James Malkin remotely via zoom. Chairperson Rossi and Warren Doty were not present. Others: Town Administrator Tim Carroll, Diana DeBlase, Accountant Ellen Biskis, Martina Thornton, Fred Hare

At 4:35 PM FinCom Chairperson Murphy called meeting to order in the Chilmark Community Center at 520 South Rd Chilmark. Chairperson Murphy asked Don Leopold to take the lead for the Social Services budgets introduction. Mr. Leopold said he is on the County Commission and also the FinCom liaison for the budget review. Mr. Leopold touched on some key roles that the County handles for the Island.

1. Legislative requirements SSA, Airports etc. veteran's agent governmental roll make sure get all benefits that are eligible and get them. The social needs of veteran gets relayed to the Community Services
2. Admin agent for the 6 town that wanted extra programs. These are regional programs
3. Advocate for the community: grants etc.

First is operated by the county budget. The second there is no budget to manage the admin and fiscal management for these programs this is the ask to the towns as a warrant article.

County Manager Martina Thornton explained that two of programs on agenda are run by the County directly. They are Public Benefits Access, Health Care Access is the other.

County Manager Martina Thornton introduced Fred Hare who is presenting the Community Services budget

Sarah Kuh and Holly Bellebuono arrived at 4:45

Accountant Biskis read aloud the CORE comparison from FY23 to FY24. FY23 \$10,490.00 to FY24 \$10,795.00 a 2.9% increase. County Manager Martina Thornton said COVID brought more seniors to Martha's Vineyard. CORE is staffed same as last year they are working to supply services to more people.

At 4:49 PM Cindy Doyle arrived

Accountant Biskis noted that in the Martha's Vineyard Community Services the First Stop is not funded this year.

At 4:53 PM Bill Rossi joined meeting.

Mr. Hannemann noted that spending is 8% lower this year compared to last year.

County Manager Martina Thornton said SUD (substance use disorder) support organization hired someone but combined with additional position so benefits line was reduced.

Cindy Doyle said Healthy Aging has a slight increase to payroll and reduction from MV Commission of \$10,000 that they used to cover.

Leslie Clapp arrived at 4:57 PM

Ms. Sarah Kuh presented the budget and information for Health Care Access program and Public Benefits.

- Increase of services in 2022 over 2021
- Medicare counseling additional 10 hours a week for a shine counsellor.
- Decrease to Public Benefits down 10 hours as funding dropped.
- UICOA shine councilors have paid staff like we do but need all of the staff as we are bursting with clients.
- Medicaid and Mass Health piece for people over 65 we do and UICOA doesn't do.

Sue Diverio the Harbor Homes director presented information about this organization. Harbor Home serves people who are mentally ill and who suffer substance abuse and now families who are losing their housing. Harbor Homes have emergency housing for victims of domestic violence with young children. These are congregate homes 1 for women and 1 for men. Finding more and more clients are seniors. County Manager Martina Thornton said there is a very slight increase homelessness prevention funding. From FY23 \$57,287 to \$59,568 (this increase is for staff to have a boost)

Leslie Clapp director of Center for Living presented information about this organization.

- Numbers are up because programs up.
- Additional 20 hour position. More clients than we ever have.
- 2 days a week we have 20 people coming in for the day program.
- Age ranges from 65 to 90 years old. Wide range of clients some with blindness some with dementia and some who just have no one else and cannot walk. 5 to 1 ratio but at this time we are just over that. 3 using wheelchairs most are fall risks.
- \$25,000 for additional position and increase to food costs and heating etc.
- Tax preparation line put back into the budget; need more bookkeeping services.

Chilmark's assessment last year was \$52,600 to \$61,000 for FY24

County Manager Martina Thornton discussed the Health Care Access Building maintenance. HVAC now is kerosene change to mini splits to bring central air-conditioning vs the loud window units. Also need to close in some client rooms for privacy. These upgrades are estimated to cost \$200,000.00. County Manager Thornton said Skipper Manter said an OPM should be brought in for this project. Chairperson Rossi said he supported bringing in an OPM. Long term capital plan with a feasibility study. \$25,000 is an estimate at this time for the OPM. County Manager Thornton said we will work for funding on this or we may increase the ask for this warrant.

County Manager Thornton spoke to the County revenue budget shortfall gap of \$42,000 for FY24. Manager Thornton assured FinCom members if any of this fund is unused will be returned to the towns, but now we need to balance prior to certifying budget.

Chairperson Murphy thanked the Social Services representatives for their presentations.

Holly Bellebuono director of MV Center for Education & Training (formally known as ACE MV) presented this warrant article request. Holly Bellebuono said this is same funding amount as last year. Ms. Bellebuono said about 10% of MVCET budget comes from towns warrant articles. Ms. Bellebuono said we get the majority of the budget from grants and class fees. We have been this program on Martha's Vineyard since 2008. We have been asked to expand our programming to include dental hygienists, etc. to help with island economy. Youngsters graduating from High school can stay here for training and remain here. Partnering with Cape Cod Community College to serve 18-40 year-olds. Ms. Bellebuono said we don't have a facility of our own, working from home and having classes at night at the MVRHS. Chairperson Murphy thanked Ms. Bellebuono for presenting.

Chairperson Murphy asked FinCom members what departments need more discussion. Would like to create a list for now to reduce discussion time. Mr. Golden said none. Mr. Leopold said would be helpful to have sense of department's priorities IE: Fire Department what is mission critical then wish list. And recommended:

- Fire Department
- Harbor
- Police

Ms. Divoll asked to discuss:

- Sheriff's budget be put into our budget vs warrant article.
- MVRHS have single meeting for all island towns discuss
- Alarms fee

Chairperson Murphy said: fire, police, harbor and highway. Mr. Hannemann said same but highway least important.

Marshall Carroll said same as mentioned prior and also with Treasurer being so far behind top priority. Marshall also recommended the town to slow down on building and changes IE: harbor docks and Peaked Hill housing projects.

Jim Malkin discussed the Preschool warrant article changes what we have is amended. Have copy of edits and will send to Tim Carroll to distribute to FinCom members and Select Board. Tim Carroll said the Preschool proposal is on the Select Board agenda for tonight. Town Administrator Carroll said we have 28 articles for the ATM warrant plus a few new things. Warrant Article list will be compiled for tomorrow. Chairperson Rossi said we have already approved more hours for the Treasure's needs.

Chairperson Murphy asked when Town will certify free cash. Chairperson Rossi said he can't say, as we don't know yet. Chairperson Murphy recommended that town review policy for when someone leaves a position and that we have sufficient support and training setup. Chairperson Rossi agreed and noted this went from an elected position to an appointed position.

Chairperson Murphy said these are not just discussions they are hearings. The Fire Department, Harbor & Police Department are big topics. What can we talk about tonight with the limited amount of time left for meeting? Ms. Divoll said Sheriff's budget. Ms. Divoll proposed putting into budget lines rather than it being a warrant. And recommend that change to Select Board. Ms. Divoll said we would still do oversight of their budget. Mr. Hannemann questioned if the sheriff's budget management stabilized yet. Tim Carroll said he could see them needing more funding. Tim Carroll said it's been only 1 year that they have done a good job budgeting. Ms. Divoll said maybe see what happens this coming year might be premature of me to recommend putting into budget. Chairperson Murphy concluded that we will think about but no action now.

Discussion turned to the MVRHS in an all town FinCom forum for next budget season. Marshall Carroll said it would be good to get the figures before the group meeting so we can submit questions and clarifying requests. Chairperson Rossi said the Schools had a great presentation this year. Tim Carroll said it is useful to meet during the formula assessment but would not get the quality we saw this year if we have an all towns forum. Mr. Leopold said administration estimate 300 hours presenting to all the towns by all the schools and departments. Think we would rather see them all spend that on the kids instead. We could go to them and maybe only the chairperson of each chair ask questions. Mr. Malkin said might make sense to have one presentation to FinCom of all towns then the superintendent and finance team correspond with individual towns.

At 6:00 PM Chairperson Murphy requested all take the warrant article items and do homework. Tim Carroll stressed that we now have line item for Facilities salary increase to \$105, 000 and \$100,000 for staff coordinator. Chairperson Rossi made clear we need to have Cleaning above and beyond this new supervisor of facilities position and need to add \$45,000.00 for the cleaning. This figure includes additional 8 hours a week for new buildings. Tim Carroll said Tri Town Ambulance said they want to do (clean) their own building. Accountant Biskis asked that we have complete list of warrant articles to distribute.

At 6:05 PM Ms. Divoll moved to adjourn. Mr. Leopold seconded the motion. SO VOTED:
FinCom: 6 Ayes, 1 not present *Eric Glasgow*. Select Board: 2 Ayes, 1 not present *Warren Doty*

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

FinCom Approved 03/16/2023

Document List:

- Partial warrant articles submitted -Individual sheets of submitted warrant articles & descriptions