

Joint Meeting Chilmark Select Board & FinCom FY25 Budget Hearing January 23, 2024 4:00 PM
Meeting Minutes

Present: FinCom: Chairperson Susan Murphy, Deb Hancock, Marshall Carroll and Bruce Golden. Linda Coutinho, *Vicki Divoll and Don Leopold were not present.

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

Others: Tim Carroll, Jess Bradlee, Alison Kisselgof, Don Hatch, Virginia Barbetti, Dawn Barnes, Diana DeBlase, MVTV Videographer Lynn Christoffers, Bruce Stone, Katie Carroll, Sarah Smith, D. Barnes,

At 4:03 PM FinCom Chairperson Murphy called meeting to order at the Chilmark Town Hall Select Board meeting. At 4:03 PM Select Board Chairperson Rossi called Select Board meeting to order in the Select Board Meeting Room.

Tax Collector #146:

Jessica Bradlee explained the Tax Collector proposed budget. Ms. Bradlee explained there are slight increases due to increased costs. 1.38% increase. Tax rate set today. Will start printing tomorrow bills to be sent out Feb 5, 2024.

**At 4:06 PM Vicki Divoll joined meeting remotely on Zoom.*

Human Resources Board # 152:

Alison Kisselgof the Board administrator for the HRB explained the budget. Ms. Kisselgof also explained how the Town got to the 4.12% COLA for FY25. Tim Carroll said that basically makes us par for last year (no increase).

**4:11 VD connected to audio*

Waste Collection #430:

Don Hatch director of MV Refuse District presented this budget. Mr. Hatch said the disposal rate went up 6%. Hazardous waste program getting more popular so costing more. Mr. Hatch said a plus now is that Steamship Authority is getting us off same day to help with cost savings. Landfill inspections going up 4.5% \$260 now \$6060.00 so total \$175,260.67

Bruce Stone WT Town Accountant said Edg MVRD not pretty sight but never have to worry great efficient job. 12% higher than 20 years ago really great. Mr. Stone said Don has managed the Refuse District really well for long period of time. Been over 15 years since we increased fee of trash bag cost.

Board of Health (BOH) #510:

Katie Carroll chairperson of Board of Health presented this budget. The BOH went to HRB and Select Board to change inspector to Health Agent to align with all other island towns. Salary earmark at grade 10 comparable to other towns but less as board still planning on participation. 40 hours a week. Ms. Carroll said this Job and town have grown bigger.

Tim Carroll explained we are working to create another fulltime job admin assistant and some time will be for to health agent, estimated at 8 hours a week. Ms. Carroll said we are adding \$14,085.46 to this budget for it. Sarah Smith explained she needs to add the Health Admin. Asst. to the Zobrio software. Ms. Carroll said they reduced the line for Professional development as completed this year.

Up Island Council on Aging:

Bruce Stone and Marie Larsen were both present to answer questions as director not yet present. There was a 4 page letter from Bruce Stone about the process of why they have been doing what they do for financials and budget operations. *Tim Carroll pulled up the assessment document*

Bruce Stone explained the differences:

- UICOA only building in WT with staff custodian next FY contracted service for FY25
- Director retiring in May so new director funding step 2 so slight decrease \$34,000 personnel, but Expensed increased equal \$9,000 savings.
- OPEB expense actuary figures county retirement never broke out UICOA. Allocation is last year's salaries % of total town salary to get % for next year budget share of retirement assessment contribution.
- Utilize the Street list (census) of seniors for assessment.
- Chilmark is down 4% this FY25 year.
- Expense budget is offset with State money with the Formula grant. \$32,000 for the 3 towns. (No restrictions on these funds relaxed during COVID and kept)
- Susan Murphy said she goes to knitting on Monday nights 7:00 PM at UICOA

Marie Larsen asked what represents major repairs / capital improvements. Discussion ensued. Bill Rossi said there are plans for different direction for the building. Mr. Stone said they have put freeze on new board to look at long term. Jim Malkin asked if UICOA / Howes House is committed to particular architect for this project. Mr. Stone said he believed it is Kenny & Kenny.

At 4:50 County Manager Martina Thornton, Sarah Kuh, Bet Carell, Cindy Trish and Jennifer Frank arrived.

Marie Larsen said Chilmark residents 55 years and older should go to UICOA they have all sorts of activities and resources. Ms. Larsen said she asked who uses UICOA services for Chilmark, Aquinnah and West Tisbury she was told they do not keep track.

At 4:52 PM Leslie Clapp, Joyce Albertine and Bethany Hammond and Doug Ruskin arrived.

County Services Budget:

Updated materials from County Manager where distributed.

- Healthy Aging; *Manager Thornton gave narrative while Tim shared the desktop.* No increase this year. Formula change so about \$200 increase.

Doug Ruskin county commissioner (newly elected in 2022) presented County structure illustrated. Health and human services director will be a new position. HCA over 50% increase so need to restructure to decrease burden to Sarah Kuh. Sarah Kuh is retiring so restructure is timely. Martina explained changes of how position is funded. Open enrollment booked through January. Bill Rossi said this has already been voted by the County Advisory Board and we supported it.

Increase warrant article for County assessment \$24,390.00 revenue unclear with the damage to beaches from storms this year.

Martina Thornton went through the County budgets for Social Services:

- Health Care Access
- Center for living is in budget and remainder are warrant articles increase about 16% annual contribution to bond for purchase of building.
- CORE formula slight down change

- Healthy Aging
- Homeless program tiny decrease
- SUD tiny decrease

Susan Murphy said you all did a wonderful job streamlining presentation and thank you all for coming
Joyce Albertine said she has been coming to Chilmark for 38 years to present the UICOA budget to
Fincom and said she has notice members faces have changed some.

Doug Ruskin said while we are all here communicating he would like to say that the County is seeking:

- county treasurer application is on the website
- Funding for de-nitrogen waste water grant component still 1 million dollars contact your health agent. This needs 240%AMI eligible reimbursement. 80% AMI pay directly

Both Joyce and Sarah are retiring this year and the members of both board and committee thanked them both for their many years of incredible service.

FinCom and Select Board directed town to post supporting documents to the Town Website under FRY25 Budget and to use the 3 digit department code for town departments. Ms. DeBlase said she would post these items.

At 5:423 PM with no further agenda items for discussion Mr. Golden moved to adjourn. Ms. Hancock seconded the motion. FinCom: **SO VOTED: 5 Ayes 2 not present**

Mr. Malkin moved to adjourn the Select Board meeting, Ms. Larsen seconded the motion.
SO VOTED: 3 Ayes

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

Document list:

13 (new) supporting documents form Dukes County Manager for social services.
These are now all available on Chilmark website FY25 Budget pages.