

Chilmark FinCom & Select Board FY25 Budget Hearing January 24, 2024 4:00 PM Meeting

Minutes

Present: Select Board: Chairperson Bill Rossi and Marie Larsen. James Malkin was not present. FinCom: Chairperson Susan Murphy, Linda Coutinho, Deb Hancock, Bruce Golden, Vicki Divoll and Marshall Carroll. Don Leopold was not present. Others: Tim Carroll, Alison Kisselgof, Diana DeBlase, D. Barnes, Sarah Smith, Carolyn Stoeber, Martina Mastro Monaco, Ebba Hierta, Liz Oliver, Clarissa Allen, Pam Bunker, MVTV videographer Lynn Fraker.

At 4:00 PM Chairs Rossi and Murphy called the meeting to order in the Select Board meeting room.

Minutes:

Draft minutes from FinCom meeting held April 20, 2023 were reviewed. Mr. Golden moved to approve as written. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. SO VOTED: 3 Ayes, 3 abstain 1 not present. Approved by Chairperson as a quorum cannot be achieved.

Draft minutes from FinCom Meeting held June 1, 2023 were reviewed. Mr. Golden moved to approve. Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. SO VOTED: 4 Ayes, 2 abstain, 1 not present.

Draft minutes from October 19, 2023 were reviewed. Mr. Golden moved to approve, Ms. Hancock seconded the motion. SO VOTED: 4 Ayes 2 abstain, 1 not present.

Historical Commission # 691

Alison Kisselgof presented this budget. Slight increases explained for Office supplies line total \$400.00.

Cultural Council # 699:

Stephanie Danforth one of Chilmark's 3 representatives was present for this budget. Ms. Danforth said the MVCC is requesting increase to \$5,000.00 up from \$3,500.00.

Police # 210:

Chief Sean Slavin presented this budget. Salary increases are contractual or COLA. Chief Slavin said only officer Delay has a step increase (all other members are at highest step.) 15 years longevity for Chief will be 2% up from 1%.

All expenses level funded except 2 outside of Chief's control. Computer maintenance and rate increases. LEC increase to ammunitions (less lethal) Taser and beanbag etc..

Police Department proposed Warrant articles:

Chief Slavin gave explanations for the following warrant articles for ATM.

- Ford lightning / all electric vehicle to replace a 2014 that has almost 90,000 miles
- Heat-pump mini-splits RISE assessment prior to purchases
- Ballfield upgrades

Assessors # 141:

Pam Bunker presented this budget along with assessors Clarissa Allen and Liz Oliver. Ms. Bunker explained that Interim re-evaluation is new line item. Annual basis reporting for the 5 year re-evaluation. \$5,000 per year for 4 years and 5th year about \$15,000.

Ms. Bunker said the Mapping costs continues to increase annually. Assessors have a printer now so increase to office expenses for toner.

Tax rate approved yesterday dropped to 2.12 % tax rate

Bottled water was discussed. Dispenser option to install and maintain. This discussion can go to the Board of health. Bruce Golden will talk to BOH about this at their next meeting.

Beach # 630

Martina Mastromonaco and Clarissa Allen were present for this budget presentation.

Ms. Mastromonaco explained the increases are for replacement to items that were destroyed in the recent storm. Line 5870 should be \$8,000.00 (increased \$6,000)

Beaches were really damaged in these storms.

At 4:44 PM Candy Shweder arrived

Ms. Mastromonaco said boardwalk matt is a new purchase for the coming season. (Plastic matt)

Marie Larsen asked that the Menemsha access for handicap patrons be worked out so can access directly from vehicle parking to the beach. Discussion ensued.

Jane Kaplan arrived at 4:47 PM

Ms. Coutinho asked about Additional equipment line. Ms. Mastromonaco said Un-inventoried items that are needed. Tim Carroll explained it is accounting language. Ms. Allen explained the additional equipment needs the ok from Beach Committee prior to spending funds from that line. Fire department is called if shark sighting to utilize the DRONE.

Marshall Carroll had questions about the overspent lines and recommended increasing if needed.

Ms. Divoll asked about a revenue line discussion. Ms. Mastromonaco gave \$249,872 FY23 figures for the sticker sales. So cost is \$50,000 to cover Menemsha as it is a free open to public beach to cover lifeguards.

Park & Rec # 650:

Carolyn Stoeber was present for this. No questions as budget is level funded.

Library # 610:

Ebba Hierta the director of Chilmark Library was present for this presentation. Jane Rappaport and Candy Schweder of the library trustees were also present.

Ms. Hierta gave circulation figures of the latest comparison of increases.

Capital improvement: the building is showing its age. Ms. Hierta said the roof is estimated to be needing replacement within next 5 years, will need to consider how to deal with this. HVAC problems will also be analyzed.

Ms. Hierta gave good news:

- Spent \$23,000 donated and state grants half to replace computer server and retrieving lost data.

Ms. Hierta said referring to the General fund budget; only 2 items are discretionary, we are seeking additional \$200.00 for arts and crafts for the maker's space. Also restore equipment repair main line to previous year's amount. So increase back the \$2,000.00

3.37% increase to budget.

Mr. Rossi asked if Library was working with Patty Egan with building repairs and maintenance plan. Ms. Hierta said shoveling snow at library moving materials around the library, in past it was something Rodney did now staff does. For this budget we have a staff member leaving the island. The new hire is at a lower step. Added 2 hours a week to the director to total 40 hours. Operating hours of Library are 33 in summer and 30 off season.

Ms. Hierta said she is now managing the HVHC system. Managing the computer systems. In most weeks she works more than 38 hours. Most department heads are paid 40 hours a week.

Ms. Hierta said attendance to Library is lower than pre-pandemic. Ms. Divoll asked how our attendance data compares to other island towns. Ms. Hierta said she doesn't have that at this time for discussion. Ms. Hierta said we have continued our virtual programming; they are really popular, we have to meet people where they are.

Jane Kaplan chair of library trustees said we see Ebba is much taxed. Capital problems to the physical plant is hers. Long range planning was postponed staffing issue to building problems just kept coming.

Chairperson Murphy said she joined the FinCom to be advocate to Library. Ms. Murphy said she gets a lot of feedback and some is not positive. Our library is open 30 hours and only open 5 days (Sunday and Monday off in a row) day after holiday Chilmark is not open the day after a holiday. Ms. Hierta said 4 employees get benefits and are entitled to the holidays.

Ms. Hierta said if town wants us open more we need to increase budget. State mandate is 10 hours a week. Mr. Hierta said at this time we don't have enough staff to add more hours and days.

Ms. Hierta said the last time we did a long range planning we had a survey and asked how much willing to spend, outcome was: good the way it is. 1 hour less than pre-pandemic now. Bruce Golden asked how many circulation assistants Chilmark Library employees. Ms. Hierta said 3 year round and we bring 2 more in the summer. Marshall Carroll said State tells you have to buy books or lose should be based on circulation. Marshall Carroll urged that we change that with the State. Ms. Hierta said she agrees; tried to make that case years ago. Bottom line is if we don't comply we get decertified. Cannot partake in CLAMS sharing. No library allowed to circulate to members of the town that is decertified. Total of about \$5,000.00 increase to purchase materials for this requirement. Tim Carroll asked about some maintenance lines. Can they be moved to line 198? Ms. Hierta said we need to allow the trustees to talk about this at a posted meeting. Tim said take some of \$4,800 and move to 198. That would be earmarked to library, we are just hiding it from the state. If take \$3,000 deduct \$600. For required purchases so overall budget down by \$600 by just moving to 198. Tim Carroll said we have no intention of taking away from Library. Chairperson Murphy said we won't change now, but in future please consider. Trustees might meet next Tuesday and may discuss this to return with recommendation.

At 5:58 PM Mr. Golden moved to adjourn, Mr. Carroll seconded the motion. SO VOTED: 6 Ayes 1 not present. Select Board Chairperson Rossi moved to adjourn. Ms. Larsen seconded. SO VOTED: 2 Ayes 1 not present.

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

Document list:

Budget figures distributed by Town Accountant Smith