

DRAFT Chilmark Board of Selectmen March 14, 2023 5:30 PM Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairperson Bill Rossi, Jim Malkin and Warren Doty. Others: Town Administrator Tim Carroll, Town Treasurer D. Barnes, Diana DeBlase, Michael Owen, Michelle O' Connor, Harbormaster Ryan Rossi, FinCom Chairperson Susan Murphy, Vicky Divoll, Ethan Genter, Mark Freidman, Jeffrey Maida, Julie Flanders, Deb Hancock, Robert Lionette, Debbie Zetterberg, Marie Larsen, Adita Modi, Chilmark School Principal Susan Stevens, Rob Hannemann, Eunke Seonwoo - news reporter, MVTV agent. (25)

At 5:30 PM Chairperson Bill Rossi called meeting to order on the Zoom platform.

Chilmark School HVAC – Generator funding discussion:

Mark Freidman of the Schools Superintendent office gave report of School E&D and funding options. Chilmark representative Robert Lionette gave a brief explanation that the HVAC is crucial but generator could wait due to the overages for budget at this time.

Police Chief Slavin joined the meeting at 5:39 PM

James Malkin discussed the option to replace the boiler and other possible options rather than taking on this huge cost at this time. Principal Stevens reported that last week parents were bringing space heaters from home. Mr. Malkin said that is not ok, but almost 3 million dollars is almost equal to the cost to build the school. Warren Doty agreed with Mr. Malkin about the astronomical cost and to consider an alternative.

Pam Bunker of Chilmark Assessor's Office joined meeting

Mike Owens stressed how important it is to move forward with this now vs in future as costs are just going up. Mr. Lionette discussed the ventilation component that replacing boiler would not cover. School Principal Stevens said the (present heating system) forced hot water system leaks.

Rob Hannemann said as chairperson of Energy Committee he would speak about this as requested by Chairperson Rossi. Mr. Hannemann discussed the rapidly escalating cost to fix this. Would not do the generator part of this project we are working on resiliency projects in the next 10 to 12 years and we can revisit the generator down the road. Mr. Hannemann said he is in favor of spending the money for the HVAC project as presented. Mr. Hannemann said we owe it to children of town to provide first class environment for learning.

Tamala Shiki, Bad Marlin and Jamal Jamus joined meeting. These three were put into waiting room as became disruptive

Mr. Malkin asked Ms. Barnes for some input about borrowing. Ms. Barnes gave some information about that. Deb Hancock asked how the School building was faring. Principal Stevens said ok to not do generator as Community Center and Library have a generator. Mr. Malkin said if we are not in compliance with code for the HVAC system we need to take action. Chairperson Rossi suggested to put onto warrant as an override and have voters decide. There was discussion on how this would be funded with borrowing and for how long.

Mr. Doty said after this discussion, seems we need to move forward with this. Chairperson Rossi said he would entertain a motion that we recommend moving forward with this without the generator. Mr. Malkin moved, and Mr. Doty seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Mr. Carroll said we still need to get approval of West Tisbury and Aquinnah as components of the UIRSD. Chairperson Rossi asked when this (School HVAC project) will get completed. OPM Michael Owns said 52 to 60 weeks complete prior to school opening fall 2023. Contractor eager to start could be complete bulk of work this summer and possibility summer of 2024 to complete as electrical gear for project is hard to get (backlogged).

Michelle O'Connor said we need to consider the Chilmark Town Affairs Council access to school and restrooms during the summer. Mr. Owens said he did not see a problem; we will have a strategy in place and work with you.

Discussion of FY2024 proposed budget:

Mr. Malkin said the budget percentage increase is substantial. In an effort to decrease the increase suggested removing the new position of Assistant Town Administrator. Mr. Malkin gave some background as to the reason the position was supported in the first place. Mr. Malkin said we need to try to address issues that were raised. We need a town hall liaison from Select Board meet with Tim weekly. Mr. Malkin recommended that a Human Resource Board member work as liaison with Chilmark's Financial group and the Town Administrator.

Harbormaster Rossi suggested Harbor reduce pilings line and navigational dredging cancel the increase to piling line and keep what was and remove the dredging but will return for Special Town Meeting. Could remove 1 assistant wharfinger to reduce cost.

Police Chief Slavin said the Police Department could give up 1 of the 20 hours a week traffic officer to reduce by \$8,000.00 as position is not filled yet.

Mr. Malkin asked Mr. Carroll to report deductions from other departments. Mr. Carroll said he has received some, some others said could not reduce their budgets. Mr. Carroll said to those departments he sent them recommendations. Mr. Carroll said he would like you to not reduce the full \$100,000.00 from the Assistant Town Administrator position as the HR part of proposed position would be beneficial. Mr. Carroll suggested \$50,000.00 stay in budget line and maybe combine with the position that Kara Shemeth is vacating.

Mr. Doty asked for discussion about OPEB and not increase funding this year. Ms. Barnes said she met with our Financial Advisor Mr. Eisenthal and Town Administrator to discuss this. The opinion from Advisor was as our OPEB is 51% funded would not see a 1 time lowering would affect but a repetitive would. Chilmark contribution down \$100,000 would be ok. Mr. Doty noted the \$342,000 is the actuarial. Mr. Doty said if we kept in \$170,000 that is our historic funding. Ms. Barnes gave explanation of the 3 parts of calculation. Mr. Doty said in his opinion we could reduce OPEB funding by more than \$100,000.00.

Mr. Carroll noted with the added borrowing figures to be determined with school HVAC still need to be keeping borrowing below 10%. Mr. Malkin said we need to go over the additional borrowing with David Eithenthal.

Ms. Bunker said in an effort to reduce she referred to the overlay recap. Ms. Bunker said we have \$87,000 at this time will talk to assessors and get recommendation back to the Select Board.

Mr. Carroll said we will have a Zoom 4:30 PM Budget with SB & Fincom posted for Thursday March 16, 2023.

Mr. Malkin requested Mr. Carroll pull sheet of figures together on what we have discussed for reference.

At 6:43 PM Chairperson Rossi asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Malkin moved, Mr. Doty seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes** *meeting adjourned.*

Draft minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

Document list:

- Chilmark School HVAC project figures