

## Chilmark FY23 Budget Hearing #1 January 19, 2022 Meeting Minutes

### Remote participants: FinCom:

Chairperson Susan Murphy, Marshall Carroll, Rob Hannemann, Eric Glasgow, Don Leopold, Vicki Divoll and Bruce Golden.

Select Board: Chairman James Malkin, Warren Doty. *Bill Rossi was not present.*

Others: Tim Carroll, Diana DeBlase, Keith Emin, Jennifer Christy, Alison Kisselgof, Jessica Bradlee and Ellen Biskis.

Chairperson Malkin requested a moment to bring people up to date with School Superintendent Issue. Mr. Malkin explained that the Superintendent project of funding study for MVRHS facility. Superintendent seeking unified agreement from our 6 island towns. Chairperson Malkin said we are expecting a Letter to all Island Select Boards. There is still disagreement from Oak Bluff's selectmen concerning the funding formula agreement. Chairperson Malkin said he does not know the content of letter from Superintendent but deadline for grant application is first week of February.

At 4:30 PM, Chairperson Murphy called the Budget hearing meeting to order on the Zoom platform.

### #152 Human Resources Board (HRB):

Ms. Kisselgof Administrator for the HRB confirmed the recommended COLA 3%

Ms. Kisselgof said the budget is not expected to show much change but requests to postpone as the HRB have not met on this yet. Mr. Carroll said there was a request if the HRB would consider a hirer % as the COLA as is now is higher since data was collected for recommendation. Mr. Doty said our policy is not less than 1% and not more than 3% and thought that was fair.

### #146 Tax Collector:

Tax collector Jessica Bradlee presented her proposed budget. Ms. Bradlee said the salary line increase is Step & COLA and longevity as she has 14 years as collector this FY23.

Ms. Bradlee addressed Software fee increase. Ms. Bradlee has own printer now, not shared with Assessor anymore so slight increase as cost for toner is no longer shared. Chairperson Murphy thanked Ms. Bradlee as there were no questions for this budget.

### #422 Highway Department:

Highway Superintendent Keith Emin presented this proposed budget. Mr. Emin said he is asking for increase to temporary employee line. Mr. Emin said he is requesting 2 employees for 9 months 30 hrs. a week. Mr. Glasgow said this could affect the budget more as it may trigger change from temporary part-time labor to benefit status. Mr. Emin said 2 workers with more time can get more done. Not asking for benefits just want more hours. Mr. Golden will work with Mr. Emin a bit more and return to Fincom with further information about his request.

### #423 Snow & Ice:

Same as FY22 unchanged \$30,000.00

#### #175 Planning Board:

Jennifer Christy administrator for the Planning Board presented this budget, as Rich Osnoss (Chairman of Planning Board) was not present yet.

Ms. Christy said this proposed budget is a level funded budget. Expense of significance is legal line but the pandemic cut down on activity.

Provided legal comparison spending through the years.

Tim Carroll said he has received a request from Planning Board for a \$20,000 warrant on Annual Town Meeting to re-start master plan work.

Mr. Doty said updating master plan is a worthwhile expense.

#### #161 Town Clerk:

Chilmark Town Clerk Jennifer Christy presented her Proposed FY23 Budget. Ms. Christy discussed the supporting sheets analysis of certain lines: election workers and postage cost and voting trends and town elections have been looking like. 4 year flow of expenditure that go up and down. Ms. Christy explained as she could possibly reduce budget by almost \$1,000.00 if the early voting for primary was not initiated. This action is pending so she planned into this budget. Ms. Christy said she is also applying grant funds for reimbursement from the State, this will help with equipment she might need. For example: replacement laptop. Chairperson Murphy thanked Ms. Christy for this presentation.

At 5:15 PM with no further budgets on the agenda for review, Chairperson Murphy asked if there were any other items to discuss.

Mr. Doty asked to return to discussion about school budgets: UIRSD discussion about E&D funds and now also the MVRHS Building if we have time. Chairperson Murphy reported she attended the first meeting for MVRHS with MSBA (State organization funding grants for school building facility up to 38%) Ms. Murphy said Mr. Packish said Oak Bluffs position on funding formula disagreement has not changed, and that showed the MSBA we don't have our act together yet. The State has set \$360 per square foot as the cost to build a school. They will reimburse 38% of the allowable expenses, capping the cost at \$360 per square foot. Deadline for letter of intent for the grant is Feb. 2, 2022, less than 2 weeks from now. Chairperson Malkin said same issue that Oak Bluffs feels fairness is not considered. Their position is Edgartown and Chilmark should pay more because of valuation. Chairperson Malkin said our current regional formula if not agreed goes to State formula. The State formula is roughly same as what we are doing now. Mr. Glasgow discussed operating split to student population capital maybe with assessed values. Mr. Glasgow said the MVRHS building/ facility structure continuing to decline. Chairperson Malkin said let's see what is in the letter from the School Superintendent.

Accountant Biskis asked if there was a Highway Department warrant article.

*Bruce Golden Fincom liaison to the Highway Department spoke to this as Mr. Emin had left meeting.*

Mr. Golden said yes a 350 Ford dump truck is being requested for the highway department.

Chairperson Malkin asked if Bruce could work with Keith for having rational for purchase of equipment.

Mr. Golden said he would.

Accountant Biskis said she is available to present her budget and the Auditor budget if the committee and board would like to continue discussion with time we have left.

*Chairperson Murphy agreed to hear these additional budgets.*

**#135 Accountant:**

Ellen Biskis Town Accountant shared screen of FY23 proposed budget. Ms. Biskis said the 20% increase overall is software and salary is step & cola and longevity.

Mr. Doty said you had an assistant for data entry in neighborhood of 10 hrs. a week.

Ms. Biskis explained during COVID not interested in pursuing filling this position.

Mr. Doty asked about additional software expense line broken out. Ms. Biskis said she broke out to show cost difference between what she anticipated for her software and the cost of additional software.

Ms. Biskis said she is in process of implementing its use now but the annual cost big surprise. *Town Administrator had pursued this software contract.* Ms. Biskis said this software update will allow department heads to be able to make their own budget. And throughout year all department heads and finCom liaisons could have access for instant reports as it works with accounting software.

**#136 Auditors:**

Ms. Biskis said this budget is the same as FY22.

At 5:49 PM Chairperson Murphy asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Golden Moved to adjourn Mr. Leopold seconded the motion. **SO VOTED 7 Ayes.** Select Board: **So Voted 2 Ayes, 1 not present**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase

Document list:

- Budget sheets for each of the departments discussed.