

Chilmark FY23 Budget hearing #2 January 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Present remotely:

Fincom: Chairperson Susan Murphy, Don Leopold, Vicki Divoll, Marshall Carroll, Eric Glasgow, Rob Hannemann and Bruce Golden. Select Board: Chairperson James Malkin and Warren Doty, *Bill Rossi was not present*. Others: Tim Carroll, Ellen Biskis, Diana DeBlase.

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

Minutes:

Draft minutes from 1/19/2022 meeting were reviewed. Chairperson Murphy added some wording for clarity. Mr. Golden moved to approve with changes. Mr. Glasgow seconded the motion.

SO VOTED: 7 Ayes

#299 Shellfish Department:

Chilmark Shellfish Constable Isaiah Scheffer presented this and the MV Shellfish Group (MVSG) proposed budgets for FY23. Mr. Scheffer said he reduced propagation budget line by \$2,000. Mr. Scheffer pointed out that the MVSG assessment to each town is up by \$1,000.

Mr. Scheffer said he is in the process now to replace the shellfish boat engine. Mr. Scheffer reported he is getting quotes now. Mr. Scheffer said the maintenance line should not keep increasing, but will keep same as budgeted for FY22.

Mr. Golden said this budget has nearly \$202,000 spending but revenue is only \$3,000.

Mr. Scheffer said that is true but It's about the family experience and ecological benefit and habitat restoration. Mr. Scheffer said the Shellfish department also manages predator control and eel grass restoration. We are the Eyes on the water. Mr. Scheffer said if we were to buy, what we set seed at; it would cost about \$300,000 a year. Mr. Doty said production and management of shellfish is much more than that, it is the overseeing of our water quality. Establishment of healthy shellfish major factor of improving the water health. Mr. Doty said Isaiah is the best propagation officer on Martha's Vineyard. Mr. Doty also pointed out that the (toxic) algae we experienced this summer is being supervised by MVC and our shellfish department.

MV Shellfish Group:

Mr. Sheffer presented this budget. Mr. Scheffer said the MVSG is actively working at adding a position: outreach and special research year-round position.

Mr. Scheffer did not have an electronic breakout of the budget to share with the FinCom and Select Board but can send that out tomorrow. Mr. Scheffer said the MVSG proposed assessment to Chilmark for FY23 is \$39,000.

#192 Town Hall:

Tim Carroll presented this budget. Mr. Carroll said this is for Town Offices / Building Maintenance. Mr. Carroll said the salaries lines are for the Maintenance Supervisor of Town Buildings (Rodney Bunker) and Marjorie Haze who has been primarily working as janitor at the Library. Increases to the salary lines are COLA and longevity. Mr. Carroll said he increased the Technology line and Computer maintenance lines as these costs are on the rise. Mr. Carroll said he decreased other budget lines to keep the increase to this budget minimal.

#194 Chilmark Community Center (CCC):

Chairperson Murphy said looks like this budget has gone down 3%. Chairperson Murphy asked if the town completed securing a generator for the CCC. Tim Carroll said Rodney is working on that. Mr. Doty said the refurbishment of fields is to be completed by Chilmark Town Affairs Council (CTAC) Mr. Leopold asked about budgeting for the diversity training after the incident this past year. Mr. Doty said that is being followed up by the CTAC and is not included in this budget. Mr. Doty said the diversity training with CTAC began last Saturday (January 15th) and will continue this Saturday.

#945 Insurance

Tim Carroll presented this budget. Mr. Carroll said as salaries for Police go up so does the insurance obligation as they don't have workers comp. This obligation is managed through budget line 5746. Mr. Carroll said we borrow from line 5740 (Insurance Premiums) to pay the others (insurance lines) when they go up.

#131 Fincom

Accountant Biskis said she did not print this sheet as it has two budget lines that are unchanged from last year. The membership dues and the office supplies. The budget books being recycled keeps the cost to the supplies low.

#198 Town owned property:

Tim Carroll said the budget line for Electricity #5210 is a collective balance offset by credits. Accountant Biskis said she can pull information but someone needs to lead how we look at this. Rob Hannemann, Tim Carroll and Ellen Biskis will get together to discuss this.

Chairperson Murphy said it hard to understand this process on this budget. Mr. Carroll talked about the schedule z and how credits are applied. Mr. Carroll said we also have more library budget lines here outside of their budget.

#199 Comfort Station:

Tim Carroll presented this budget. Mr. Carroll said we increased with COLA but needs to go out to contract this year. Tim Carroll said he is working to secure ARPA \$ grant for improvement to Comfort station so far was not able to get but still pursuing.

#114 Moderator:

\$100.00 budget unchanged.

#196 Select Board unclassified:

Tim Carroll discussed this budget. Mr. Carroll explained an example of when we have spent from this budget: to pay for repairs to the electric flashing lights at school zone. Mr. Carroll said a few years back we removed some funding from beach budget and is in line 5600 if needed. Mr. Doty said when an unexpected sizable expense has come up we handle quickly (pay from this budget) and then come to FinCom to get transfer from reserve fund.

Accountant Biskis said the only spending this past year was for sound system for outdoor town meeting.

#291 Emergency Management

Town Emergency Manager Tim Carroll said the County is now the host for this department. The County hired part-time person to be regional coordinator we were assessed \$3,000.00 for this year from the \$5,000.00 budget. Tim Carroll gave outline of what they are doing for the community. Started during cold war as civil defense now all hazards.

#151 Legal:

Tim Carroll presented this budget. FY23 total budget for this department is \$55,180.00. Mr. Carroll said the Town of Chilmark receives a tremendous discount from Reynolds Rappaport, Kaplan & Hackney, LLC. Mr. Carroll said when we have conflict and have to hire outside of the vineyard the cost is much higher.

At 5:36 PM having completed the budgets on the agenda, Chairperson Murphy asked if there were further items to discuss tonight. Mr. Golden said he would like to return for rational for Highway request for dump truck. Three workers would be far more efficient with two vehicles. The pick-up truck is too small to efficiently haul brush and to haul fill for the Town dirt roads including Meeting House Road, Tea Lane and Boathouse Road. The pick-up truck with its lift gate is essential for lifting and hauling heavy items like deer carcasses and large tree limbs. Both vehicles would be used to promptly plow and sand Town roads during and after winter storms. Mr. Golden reported that when asked if Highway Department could take on burden for maintaining of roads (in cemetery) and cemetery he said, would be reasonable if got 30 hours for two workers and dump truck.

Chairperson Malkin said this speaks to the increased demand of our infrastructure. Same amount of roads and roadsides have not changed. Town purchased capital equipment what is the increased work that needs hours and equipment. Mr. Golden said they would be able to do more mowing back to stonewalls. Mr. Golden said where it is done it looks beautiful. Marshall Carroll said he believed the added hours was to retain individuals who may go elsewhere. Marshall Carroll said second vehicle did not seem necessary.

At 5:47 PM with no further items for discussion, Chairperson Murphy asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Golden moved to adjourn. Mr. Glasgow seconded the motion.

SO VOTED: FinCom 7 Ayes, Select Board 2 Ayes 1 Not present.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

Approved 1/25/2022

Document list:

- Draft Budget Hearing minutes from 1/19/2022
- Budget spreadsheets for departments that were on the agenda.