

### **Chilmark Budget Hearing #4 January 26, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Remotely present: Fincom: Chairperson Susan Murphy, Marshall Carroll, Rob Hannemann, Eric Glasgow, and Bruce Golden. *Vicki Divoll and Don Leopold were not present*

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

Others: Tim Carroll, Ellen Biskis, Dawn Barns, Melanie Becker, Pam Bunker and Diana DeBlase.

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

#### Minutes:

Draft minutes from January 25, 2022 meeting were postponed until tomorrow.

Chairman Murphy asked how this time and process of Budget Hearings was going and asked if there was comments. Chairperson Malkin said he liked this time at 4:30 PM instead of 7:00 PM start for the hearings.

Chairperson Murphy said we have new updated figures from the Accountant and made sure all were referring to the latest figures.

#### #145 Treasurer:

Accountant Biskis noted new Treasure (Dawn Barns) grade 11/ step 3 with probation step 4 so FY23 will be step 4. Town Treasurer Melanie Becker asked to bring attention to software and cost for professional development. Ms. Becker said she has a recommendation about Zobrio cash management. That the town pay for extra training for Zobrio one on one with new treasurer. Ms. Becker also stressed need for Data Processing and recommend getting a backup (additional) person to do payroll. Ms. Becker outlined 2 possible scenarios. Town hiring someone outside of employees at town hall. Or someone inside town hall.

Tim Carroll said we will pay for training Ms. Barns in Zobrio cash management this fiscal year. Tim Carroll said we need more funds added in budget line development & travel. Ms. Barns said she has only been together 3 days with Treasurer Becker and will need more training support. Tim Carroll said please add \$1,800 to line 5303 bringing total to \$2,000.00 and to increase line 5710 to make total \$800.00.

Chairman Malkin said the backup payroll recommendation would need follow up discussion with Tim Carroll and Melanie Becker. Ms. Becker said the Auditors would agree that disaster planning to have more than one person to cover for payroll.

Chairperson Murphy recommended looking into this.

#### #710 Debt:

Ms. Becker said borrowing debt is down but the Fire station /TTA HQ is missing from the figures, as we need a bid to put the figure in. Tim Carroll said bids are due February 14, 2022. Ms. Becker said we will need to work with an estimated number. Tim Carroll recommended estimating \$12,000,000.00.

Ms. Becker said next step is to work with financial advisor with that figure. Ms. Becker said she is working with the recommended 20-year bond, unless that has changed. Mr. Rossi said April 1, 2022 construction is expected to start, so we will need a considerable amount of funding in place at that time. Ms. Becker said as for the Bonding it would be important that Tim Carroll support Dawn Barns with the process for the financial statement.

#751 Retirement of Debt – Interest:

Ms. Becker noted that these figures are down by ½ but this budget does not have the fire station and TTA HQ figures in it yet.

#752 Short-term interest:

Bond anticipation note. Ms. Becker said she thought we would be ready to go to bonding for the project but project was delayed so we re-upped the anticipation note and will be issuing a BAN tomorrow. Our bond will be in April 2022. Ms. Becker said this would cover costs for 1 year and we will be issuing three bonds consecutively as project progresses to cover cost. Tim Carroll noted that our financial advisor David Eisenthal at Unibank would be working with us through this.

#910 Employee Benefits:

Mr. Glasgow said he asked town office to research data on topic of benefits for elected officials. Mr. Glasgow said this entailed survey of other island towns. Mr. Glasgow said after review can state we are not in alignment with other towns. Other towns do not offer what we do. Elected official cost to towns is \$165,306.96 for FY23. Mr. Glasgow asked what is feeling on this. Chairperson Murphy said she was on Board that reviewed the benefits option years ago. Chairperson Murphy said she recollected that if Chilmark resident was compensated for a position then we had to offer health insurance. Mr. Glasgow said other island towns offer larger stipends than ours. Treasurer Becker said she believed that if elected official is paid they would be eligible to get health insurance, but the law does not require coverage. Treasurer Becker said this might be a question to give to our Legal Counsel.

Chairperson Malkin said Aquinnah's stipend to Select Board is \$5,000 and they also receive health benefits. Mr. Glasgow said let's assume we don't legally have to do this what is our opinion here. Mr. Glasgow said his thought is Select Board insurance ok, but he does not support Assessors & Board of Health insurance coverage. Stipend for Assessors & Board of Health is ok but insurance coverage seems wrong. Chairperson Murphy recommended the town ask town counsel to review this. Chairperson Murphy said a part-time job that pays health insurance is worth it's weight in gold. Chairperson Murphy said the town could do away with health benefits using attrition so no new members are added to health insurance.

Tim Carroll said Assessors must be certified and Board of Health needs certification unlike other boards. Mr. Glasgow said it is a big line item and a conversation we needed to have. Chairperson Murphy said please ask town counsel.

Marshall Carroll referred to benefits to Board of Health Chairperson (Katie Carroll is wife to Marshall) Katie really works hard for the town and benefits are part of that commitment. Mr. Rossi said when he ran for selectmen the insurance did not affect him but now in his 4<sup>th</sup> term he sees the amount of time he put into this and with insurance he takes this more seriously.

Ms. Barns said she has 30 years municipality experience and is impressed Chilmark still has retirement offered to these boards. Ms. Barns said she sees you are very engaged in your government compared to off island, especially when benefits were removed from the off island municipalities. Incentive to keep people dedicated. Ms. Barns recommended if in budget, to keep it.

Chairperson Murphy closed discussion with reminder that fincom is an advisory board.

#141 Assessors:

Pam Bunker presented the proposed budget. Ms. Bunker said she is seeking funding to obtain Near-map an ortho photographic software. Ms. Bunker said:

- Near Map does fly-over every April.
- More up to date than GIS 2019 mapping.
- Accuracy of building measurements is 3 inches.
- Reduced my temporary assistant line to offset.
- Unlimited users in town but not for public use.

Ms. Bunker listed other department s that have added funding for this software into their FY23 budgets. Ms. Bunker said this would also be a great tool for the building department. Highway department could use for looking at trees. Police department could utilize for property discrepancies or problems help to arbitrate. Ms. Barns spoke in favor of this software as she used this when she was working as the West Tisbury Assessor.

Ms. Bunker said this software would not mean she is going to eliminate inspections, but would be a valuable tool. Ms. Bunker said she is hoping Select Board will add \$3,300.00 from their budget to make it possible to fund Near Map for Chilmark.

At 5:33 PM with budgets listed on agenda completed, Chairperson Murphy asked if there was further discussion tonight. With no further items for discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

**Approved 02/02/2022**