

## Chilmark FY23 Budget Hearing #5 January 27, 2022 Meeting Minutes

### **Remotely present:**

FinCom: Chairperson Susan Murphy, Marshall Carroll, Bruce Golden, Rob Hannemann, Don Leopold, Eric Glasgow, Vicki Divoll. Select Board: Warren Doty, Bill Rossi and Chairperson Malkin.

Others: Tim Carroll, Diana DeBlase, Sheriff Bob Ogden, Peter Graczykowski. Fire Chief Jeremy Bradshaw, Tri Town Ambulance Chief Ben Retmier.

### Minutes

Draft minutes from Budget Hearing #3 meeting held January 25, 2022 were reviewed. Mr. Golden moved to approve draft with Mr. Hahnemann's corrections. Mr. Hannemann seconded the motion.

**SO VOTED: Fincom: 7 Ayes, Select Board: 3 Ayes.**

### Sheriff / REC:

Peter Graczykowski said thank you to Vicki Divoll for time spent going over this with us prior to tonight and asking tough questions.

Mr. Graczykowski said the Maintenance contracts from ACSI are projected to be the same for next 5 years. Mr. Graczykowski explained the Comcast Ethernet connectivity redundancy for entire system to close the loop. Not maintenance but necessary cost. We are seeking tower tall enough (100 foot tower) in Edgartown in future. Mr. Graczykowski spoke about the necessary increase to FY23 budget for the microwave backhaul system.

Mr. Graczykowski said this budget funding is: all towns are assessed their share of 50% cost of system and the other 50% based on dispatches (figures created with 2021 dispatches). FY23 Chilmark's assessed portion will be 11.65% or \$32,822.57 of \$281,695.24.

Ms. Divoll said Peter took a lot of time and was very helpful at explaining this budget to me. Ms. Divoll said as the Fincom liaison to Sheriff's office budget I dug. Ms. Divoll said seems the system is not working at peak connectivity. Ms. Divoll said Edgartown is unhappy with connectivity. Ms. Divoll asked what went wrong with design, and why redundancy. Sheriff Ogden said we would not create 911 equipment without redundancy.

Sheriff Ogden said the MOU is a very fragile document; if any one town refuses to pay, it becomes null and void. Sherriff Ogden said the town's Advisory (from the REC MOU) committees agreed to pay this.

*Town Accountant Ellen Biskis joined meeting*

Mr. Hannemann said we all believe the system is very important. Mr. Hannemann said we are all in this together. Mr. Hannemann said he had two questions. 1.) Did you have a singular engineering firm that designed the system? Sheriff Ogden said Motorola. 2.) You said we still require major infrastructure, how much more spending is needed? Mr. Graczykowski said additional infrastructure would be paid by grant monies, upgrades no cost to you.

Chairperson Murphy thanked the Sheriff and Mr. Graczykowski for coming and discussing this. Marshall Carroll (as a Town Constable) asked if there was radio provided by REC for town constables. Mr. Graczykowski said yes and to speak to Toney Gould directly to get it.

#### #230 & 231 TTA:

Tri Town Ambulance Chief Ben Retmier presented this proposed budget.

Chief Retmier pointed out that the increase is primarily salaries. A position will go from 30 hrs. to 40 hrs. as we just need more hours for this position. Chief Retmier said the Off-season and night shift EMT line we delayed staggered increase so we have included here for FY23. Chief Retmier explained it is more expensive to get our oxygen since SBS no longer supplies. Mr. Retmier said new station in Chilmark we will include our oxygen station. Mr. Rossi said thank you for your explanation pages included for the budget hearing, they were very helpful. Ms. Divoll said she agreed they are very helpful.

Mr. Doty said he is the Chilmark representative on the Tri-Town Ambulance Board. Mr. Doty said Board consists of Select Person from each town. This year we changed to allow appointment of representative. Mr. Doty explained that Jim Newman was a select person in Aquinnah and has stayed on as the representative though he is no longer a Select Board member.

Mr. Doty said the management of TTA is done by strong chief and policy by the board. Chairperson Murphy asked how recovery for billing for your services has been going. Chief Retmier said recovery is 90 to 95% for insured persons. In addition, 40 to 50% for calls to people without insurance. Chief Retmier said he credits crews for getting appropriate contact information and Allison Graczykowski for her diligence.

Chairperson Malkin said Chief Retmier and Fire Chief Bradshaw you just heard our discussion with the Sherriff. I want to confirm both of you advised the advisory board to approve REC expense. Both Chief Retmier & Chief Bradshaw said yes.

#### #220 Fire Department:

Chief Jeremy Bradshaw presented this budget.

Chief Bradshaw said the Alarm Assessment will start next year (FY23) \$250.00 year assessment. Similar to mooring permit, if someone had a home alarm system they will be charged an annual fee. Chief Bradshaw said \$110,000.00 is estimate revenue coming in with Alarm Assessment for FY23.

- Chief Bradshaw salary negotiation this year; line \$120,000.00
- Added \$1,300.00 stipend for firefighters. Coverage when he is away, personnel on call.
- \$3,000.00 increase to training line.
- Increase to Vehicle maintenance, no longer able to do all on island so we have to service at Bull Dog until island mechanic gets employees back.

Ms. Divoll asked how many new firefighters. Chief Bradshaw said 24 new, total 38 firefighting personnel.

Chief Bradshaw said his department is actively seeking grants every year.

Discussion turned to Warrant articles from the Chilmark Fire department for Annual Town Meeting.

- 6 Scott packs
- 6 rescue life preservers and helmets
- Watercraft dolly

Chief Bradshaw said he is working with Beach Committee to put housing at Lucy Vincent Beach parking lot for the rescue equipment. (jet ski, dolly etc..)

Chief Bradshaw said Anthony Gould joined our department, and has secured a FAA drone permit.

- Drone package will be a 1-time cost.

The drone would be very helpful with Hazard areas for brush fires; help with getting directions and flow. Will have thermal imaging camera to allow the Police department in search and rescue. Good start for the island wide drone program.

Tim Carroll said usually town does not lease equipment; best to buy upfront might use stabilization to purchase 12 Scott packs. \$110,000.00 scot packs. Tim Carroll said he would advocate for 12 Scott packs if take \$110,000 spread out payment to be \$11,000 per year.

At 5:54 with agenda, items complete, Chairperson Murphy asked for motion to adjourn. Mr. Carroll moved to adjourn. Ms. Divoll seconded to motion. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

**Approved 02/03/2022**