

Chilmark FY23 Budget Hearing #9 February 8, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Remotely present: FinCom: Chairperson Susan Murphy, Bruce Golden, Eric Glasgow, Vicki Divoll, Rob Hannemann, Marshall Carroll and Don Leopold. Select Board: Warren Doty. *Bill Rossi & Chairperson James Malkin were not present.* Others: Tim Carroll, Ellen Biskis, D. Barnes, Diana DeBlase, Karen Tewhey, Leslie Clapp, Martina Thornton, Victor Capoccia, Skipper Manter, Cindy Trish, Beth Folcarelli, Joyce Albertine, Bruce Stone and Sarah Kuh.

Up Island Council on Aging:

Bruce Stone the West Tisbury Town Accountant presented the budget for UICOA. *As Ellen Biskis is for the Tri Town Ambulance, Bruce Stone is accountant-overseeing budget for UICOA for all three up island towns. UICOA is being heard first as Accountant Stone has another meeting starting soon.*

Mr. Stone said we made a change to Director Joyce Albertine's hours. She will be 40 hrs. vs 37 ½ hrs. she is now. We have some changes in personnel so as for Health insurance do not know who will be hired, might be family health insurance. Mr. Stone said the towns are billed for the health insurance each ¼ based on actuals. Chairperson Murphy thanked Joyce & Bruce for coming and presenting this budget.

Social Services:

Don Leopold said he would like to introduce this section of the budget hearings. Mr. Leopold said he is now putting on his County Commissioner hat vs his Fincom hat. *Mr. Leopold screen-shared purporting diagrams to help illustrate the County's role. Set context for today's presentations for the -Regional program budgets.* Mr. Leopold said Dukes County has 4 functions:

- 1.) Fulfill Legislatively Required Functions & Services – Assessment, Deeds excise, fees/rents ...
- 2.) Serve as Towns Administrative Agent – Warrants/town budgets fund services- grants
- 3.) Advocate & Obtain grants for islands –assessment
- 4.) Execute Island –wide projects –varies

Services that all -six towns have agreed to support and have asked County to serve as town's administrative agent. To be the managing / coordinate and administrative assistance as needed.

Bill Rossi joined meeting

Martina Thornton thanked Don Leopold for the introduction. Manager Thornton said Directors from each of the programs are here tonight if you have questions. *Manager Thornton guided what order the programs would be discussed.*

Adam Turner director of the MVC joined meeting, Curtis Schroeder of the MVC joined meeting

- 1.) Homelessness prevention with Karen Tewhey individuals from any town (on Martha's Vineyard) can access this service. 2 ½ year grant funded and then United way took on the funding and now it comes to the county to fund. Approx. 100 to 120 families have contacted / we have new hire that started in August 2021. Harbor Homes is where they are working. \$55,000.00 3% admin cost and start up. FY23 ask is \$57,000.00 would like to increase from \$25 to \$26 per hour. This is an unbenefited position. *No questions from the Select Board or Fincom.*

- 2.) Vineyard Health care Access program / Sarah Kuh director. Director Kuh explained that the Medicare piece is expanding with the island demographic. Most services are no longer in person but we can if needed. Dental services needed, we do Vineyard Smiles through schools and cleaning for adults. Serving 2,300 to 2,500 clients with their Medicare and Medicaid. Staffing changing but not affecting the bottom line too much. Contribution to OPEB that has not been in our budget before. Duke County Social Services fill gap for people 60 and under in age. With Unemployment assistance. MV Community Foundation donation for bus passes and food certificates. No major changes in this budget. *No questions*

- 3.) Center For Living – director Leslie Clapp services we provide for seniors regionally. Level funded. Within the budget we had some changes in staff. All programs went to Zoom and met some clients on their porches. In April we opened our building to client access. 17-18 people 2 days a week. The rest of the week is 12 people each day. Staffing ratio-increasing because of the level of disabilities. Dementia clients need additional oversight. We have an additional assistant on the floor during the day program. Increased fee to \$60.00 a day for full day. Vs at home care is \$35.00 per hour. Challenge we are addressing is transportation. VTA always provided this but this year it's more and more difficult. Entered into an agreement with VTA to utilize van from VTA and we have hired our own driver. Keeping this outside of our budget at this time as we are seeking alternative funding for the driver. \$5,000 in budget is for fuel and insurance. Director Clapp said we finished the new kitchen through the Yates trust fund allowing our meals to get better and better. *No Questions*

- 4.) First Stop & CORE – Beth Folcareli presented these budgets. Flat funding first stop same as FY22. 1 hour a week not enough so shifted budget to have 5 hours a week to update website. Counselling Outreach Referral for Elders. Flat budget for CORE. *No Questions*

- 5.) Healthy Aging MV – Director Cindy Trish said this grassroots task force is now a planning organization. 198 Chilmark residents partook in our needs survey last year to identify service gaps, I work with others (here tonight) to develop. IE: older adult transportation pilot programs are underway. One fulltime employee - myself self. Level funding. Falls prevention coalition reduction to falls go into homes of older adults and assess what will improve situation. *No Questions*

- 6.) Substance Use Disorder/SUD - Director Victor Capoccia (*Zoom-called in from car traveling from Boston to Woods Hole*) said in 2016 the island was experiencing drastic overdose situation and we created this coalition. SUD involvement is voluntary. We had a grant that covered support but now that has ended. ½ position through community services. Look at gaps, organizations are directly responsible are working together. During COVID dramatic increase in need. *No questions*

- 7.) Overhead / administrative fee. County Manager Thornton said we asked in the past for 5%. Overhead is funding treasurer and administrator administrating these services. Request to balance budget with understanding when we audit and if surplus – 10% for surplus funding. Select Board member Bill Rossi (who is also on County Advisory Board) explained and said this should come to voters. \$6,711.00 is Chilmark's portion.

Martha's Vineyard Commission:

Director of MVC Adam Turner said this budget is always dependent on legal fees and there is ongoing litigation at this time. There is \$150,000 in legal budget line for FY23. Mr. Turner said MVC is working on Chilmark's Peaked Hill project with Grant funding and Pond Cleanup too.

Mr. Hannemann said he has looked in detail at budget, our assessment going up 8% due to accumulated legal fees. Mr. Hannemann asked how you budget for legal fees. Mr. Turner said we (MVC) do not. Mr. Turner said we took out a legal costs insurance policy and will use it all \$100,000.00.

Mr. Schroeder said another town recommended we increase that insurance policy and we are looking into that. Ms. Divoll asked for information about health insurance line. Mr. Schroeder said that line has gone down 10% (-\$22,000) this year. Due to staff change from family to single plan. Mr. Schroeder we included a 5% increase for health insurance benefits. Town Administrator Carroll said we got report from our Municipal Health Group that they have a 3% increase this coming year but they got rid of premium holiday so there will be more cost. Mr. Schroeder our figures are correct. Ms. Divoll said if spike (%) decreases, we see that. Mr. Turner said yes, he understands that spike cannot be the new level.

Mr. Hannemann asked what big item you expect for 2022. Mr. Turner said the MV Hospital is looking to relocate Windermere and housing for nursing etc. That is a big development for Edgartown. Mr. Turner said we have also seen many demolitions. Chairperson Murphy thanked the MVC representative for their explanations.

Chairperson Murphy said we have completed the agenda items for tonight but there has been a request to look at Sources of Available Funds.

Chairperson Murphy said the School has 5:30 meeting with Edgartown the night of our budget hearing for them so we might need another meeting next week to discuss the MV regional High School budget.

Fincom and Select Board agreed to February 16, 2022 for additional meeting to hear the MVRHS budget. Chairperson Murphy said she will ask Superintendent Matt D' Andrea and Principal Dingley if the 16th is agreeable. Mr. Hannemann said it is important to make sure Robert Lionette (Chilmark's representative on school boards) is at both school meetings tomorrow and 2/16/22.

Sources of Available Funds:

Town Accountant Ellen Biskis said this data is available on Chilmark Town website on the accountant webpage. Accountant Biskis discussed fund lines.

Town Administrator asked about the Overlay and if the Assessors will be releasing any this year. Ms. Biskis said we would need to ask Pam Bunker.

Ms. Biskis said there was a change today to Compensated absences, we paid out -\$26,000 so this figure needs to be reduced by that amount. And in anticipation of Rodney retiring. Town Administrator Carroll asked who took out compensated absences. Ms. Biskis said Melanie Becker. In addition, we do not yet know Lenny Jason's plans, might need to look at this balance.

Accountant Biskis said some of the grants have not been spent for years, so need to put attention to these at some point.

Accountant Biskis said she sends these figures to departments to review and track. Mr. Doty said he is interested in the Cemetery sale of cemetery lots. (*putting on her Cemetery Superintendent hat*) Ms.

Murphy said the understanding of Cemetery Commission is the big fund was for land acquisition. Mr. Doty said spend some of this fund for the Cemetery needs and a warrant would not be necessary. Ms. Murphy said the big (*zombie*) pine trees in the cemetery need to be addressed.

Mr. Doty referred to the library gifts \$203,000; we need to ask what their plan is for these funds. Accountant Biskis said Director Hierta has spent a lot of this on COVID supplies. Mr. Doty said it is good to know the plan.

Town Administrator Carroll said the Tourism & Economic Development \$43,229.59 amount - he hopes to spend on Comfort Station improvements.

Town Administrator Carroll said there is possibility we could spend on ice for fishermen from the economic development fund too.

Accountant Biskis said the line Other (with amount of \$13,372.90) is when insurance claim comes in after we have paid. Town Administrator Carroll directed Accountant Biskis to release that back to general fund.

At 6:01 PM Chairperson Murphy asked for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Hannemann said though the C.C.M.V. Housing Bank has not gotten back to us, we should come to a recommendation. Mr. Leopold said as for the Housing Bank 100% supportive as is but question as Fincom should we be weighing in on it. Does not impact our tax. Is this in our purview? Chairperson Murphy said we would: Recommend, not recommend or take no action. Mr. Rossi said may effect development and if you sell your property. Chairperson Murphy said she would see if we could get Ms. Silber to return to us.

Mr. Golden moved to adjourn. Marshall Carroll seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 7 Ayes**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

Approved 02/16/2022