

**Chilmark FY21 Budget Hearing #3 Finance Committee & Selectmen
January 28, 2020 Joint Meeting Minutes**

Present: FinCom: Chairman Rob Hannemann, Vicki Divoll, Eric Glasgow, Susan Murphy, Marshall Carroll and Bruce Golden .*Don Leopold was not present* . Selectmen: Chairman Warren Doty, James Malkin and Bill Rossi. Others: Tim Carroll, Melanie Becker, Diana DeBlase, Alex Elvin, Martina Thornton, Leslie Clapp, Paddy Moore, Sarah Kuh, Julie Fay, Police Chief Jonathan Klarén, Fire Chief Jeremy Bradshaw, Peter Graczykowski, Tri Town Ambulance Chief Ben Retmier and MVTV Videographer Lynn Christoffers.

At 7:00 PM Chairman Hannemann called the meeting to order in the Selectmen's meeting room.

Minutes:

Chairman Hannemann postponed the minutes till a later date to have time to hear the report from the MV Commission.

MVC Report - MV Elder - Service Mapping:

Alex Elvin of the MVC presented the report prior to the Fincom & Selectmen hearing the Social Services Budgets for information that could be helpful in forming questions for the Social Services groups.

There was a 30 min informational presentation and there was time also scheduled for questions.

Mr. Elvin ended presentation with an outline of the next steps:

- Continued discussion in community
- Tools & Support for data collection
- Cost of service per individual

Mr. Elvin said the MVC is working on a user friendly format for the database fields so all the data and recommendations can be accessed by the community and especially the Social Services to help them with the programs for island elders. Chairman Hannemann thanked Mr. Elvin for the presentation.

At 7:35 PM Ellen Biskis arrived.

Dukes County Programs:

County Manager Martina Thornton presented these budgets along with each director of the Social Service program that are connected through the County.

Julie Fay and Paddy Moore presented the information for the Services they are involved in.

Ms. Fay the director of MV Community Services reported that the First Stop program that is a data website for senior services is level funded.

Ms. Fay said the CORE program - Counseling Outreach and Referrals for Elders started as a hospital grant during the rebuilding at the hospital. The level of complexity and involvement required is much higher than anticipated and the need to continue this service is real. Ms. Fay said Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard has had Paddy Moore as a director and she is stepping down to focus her energy on healthcare advanced care planning with the MV Hospital. Ms. Fay said they are budgeting \$111,000.00 for an executive coordinator position and have figured in benefits with family health insurance. Ms. Moore talked of the Green Houses program for senior living / care housing. The program plan is to build 8 / 12 bed units and to also build housing for the staff on location as well. Ms. Moore outlined the work that the HAMV has been working on over the past 7 years.

Chairman Hannemann asked what exactly does the County do for you. Ms. Fay said we have a contract with the County. The County collects the money; we submit invoices to County 4 times a year. We (MCCS) run the systems entirely and funding is collected through the County. Ms. Fay said the relationship with Martina (County Manager) has been very good.

Center For Living - Director Leslie Clap presented this budget.

Ms. Clapp said the Center For Living has been in the new facility for 2 years now and it's going well. They have extended the service to the 5 day program since this fall (2019). Ms. Clap said they have had some changes in staff; 2 employees had retired and she combined the work to a single position and its working well. Ms. Clapp said she also hired an additional part-time meal assistant at 15 hours a week. Ms. Clapp said the Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) will no longer offer the service of picking up the clients and bringing them to the center and home after. Ms. Clapp said she has been working out a plan with the VTA to use one of their vans for a fee to cover insurance etc.. at \$10,000.00 annually and VTA will still manage the scheduling but Center for Living must provide their own drivers. Ms. Clapp said this is an ongoing item they are working on she is seeking a grant to fund the driver salaries.

Chairman Hannemann asked Ms. Clapp what the relationship is with the County. Ms. Clapp said she submits invoices 2 times a month to the County to pay. Chairman Hannemann thanked Ms. Clapp for presenting this budget.

Sarah Kuh director of the MV Healthcare Access presented this budget. Ms. Kuh said the volume of service needs is steady and she is serving more seniors now. The MVHCA helps with signing up community members to:

- healthcare programs
- Medicaid & Medicare forms
- Emergency financial aid for pay gaps
- Vineyard Smiles for kids a dental program through the schools and through service from Island Board of Health agencies dental for adults.

Ms. Kuh explained the FY21 budget is lower than FY20 but assessment is a bit higher because of the loss of a grant that they had been getting for many years. Chilmark's assessment is 10.78% using the 50/50 formula.

Ms. Kuh also gave a report of the County Social services. Ms. Kuh said there are 2 case workers for this service. They assist the very low income citizens for 30 hours a week. They distribute aid to:

- 120 food stamp applicants
- 77 heating fuel applicants
- 9 Disability applicants
- Cash assistance when necessary

County Manager Martina Thornton discussed the 3 additional warrant articles. Ms. Thornton said the Substance Use Disorder program is level funded at \$30,000.00 to cover the costs of publication materials and training for recovery coach training. Ms. Thornton said they also have supplied the police departments with NARCAN as they go through about 4 in a single incident. Ms. Thornton also discussed the homelessness prevention programs that the SUD program is incorporating.

Ms. Thornton discussed the shortfall and the recommendation from the County Board. The board recommended rather than charge the 5% administrative fee for managing the Social Services office work to make up for the losing the alarm fees to have a warrant article for \$60,000.00.

There was also discussion and explanations of a stabilization fund for the County that will be included in this FY21 to avoid a future shortfall.

Chairman Hannemann thanked Ms. Thornton and Ms. Kuh.

Dukes County Sheriff's Office:

Lieutenant colonel Peter Graczykowski was present to discuss the fund request from the Sheriff's Office.

Tim Carroll spoke as a member of the Regional Emergency Communication Center (RECC) finance advisory committee. Tim Carroll said there is an additional committee made up of the Chiefs (Police, Fire and Ambulance) as a technical review committee. Lt.Col Graczykowski said they are requesting \$300,000.00 to move forward with the upgrading the equipment for the Communication Center. The money will stay with the towns until the payments are due and the committees have approved. Chairman Doty thanked Lt Col. Graczykowski.

Chairman Doty said he had to leave to take a conference call but as Chilmark representative on the Tri-Town Ambulance wanted to give a quick into to the Tri Town Ambulance and thanked Chief Retmier for coming.
Chairman Doty left the meeting

Department budget # 231 Tri-Town Ambulance (TTA):

Chief Ben Retmier presented the Tri-Town Ambulance Department budget. Chief Retmier pointed out the salary increase to the offseason EMTs and night shifts. Chief Retmier said he has had difficulty filling shifts and has increased these to entice coverage. The day shift is proposed to be \$225.00 and the night shift from \$130.00 up to \$200.00.

Chairman Hannemann asked how the billing is going. Chief Retmier said it's going well. The relationship with Comstar is good and Alison Graczykowski the TTA Administrative Assistant is doing a great job. Chief Retmier said TTA has 95% recovery rate from private insured patients, and a 50% recovery rate from uninsured ones. Accountant Biskis asked to discuss the process proposed to pay Chilmark back the retirement funds. Chilmark had been paying the entire retirement funding and Aquinnah and West Tisbury had paid none. There is a plan to reimburse Chilmark. Tim Carroll said there will need to be a signed agreement with all three towns of TTA. Chilmark had paid \$292,000.00 into the TTA retirement before this was discovered. Accountant Biskis said it was not a good idea to put the offset into the budget figures at this time. Bill Rossi would like to follow-up with Chairman Doty about the process the TTA Committee recommends. Chairman Hannemann said he would like this resolved before FY21. Mr. Malkin asked to review the contract with Comstar. Accountant Biskis said she would get a copy to Mr. Malkin in the morning. Chairman Hannemann thanked Ben Retmier for coming to present this budget.

Department budget # 220 Fire Department:

Fire Chief Jeremy Bradshaw presented this proposed budget. Chief Bradshaw said he raised the budget by \$2,000.00 for fire training. Chief Bradshaw said we have 3 new trainees. Chief Bradshaw said he also added a new line for on call pay. This will cover \$75.00 for a 12 hour on-call shift. Chief Bradshaw said he is making changes to the vehicle maintenance and has shifted to a certified island based mechanic to ensure vehicles are in service faster and it will cut costs down as well. Chief Bradshaw said the specialized pump test will be performed on island having the specialist come to Chilmark. Ms. Murphy asked how many firefighters Chilmark had. Chief Bradshaw said 18; soon to be 21 with our new members. Chief Bradshaw said recruitment will continue to build a bigger department.

Mr. Rossi said Chief Bradshaw has done a terrific job communicating with the Selectmen and all departments in Chilmark. Mr. Malkin said this has been the best budget presentation he has seen from the Fire Department and reiterated that the communication is very good.

Chairman Hannemann thanked Chief Bradshaw for presenting this budget.

Department budget # 210 Police Department:

Police Chief Jonathan Klarén presented this budget. Chief Klarén said right off you will see I am requesting a salary increase. Chief Klarén said he is in the process of a new contract and has increased this line 12.67% for a total annual salary of \$140,000.00. Chief Klarén said he has added 2 additional lines to the salaries. One is for Officer Rogers to have 4 hours a week presence at the Chilmark School. Chief Klarén said the Chilmark Principal asked if this could be something that was more regular. Now Officer Rogers goes to the school on Wednesdays if there are no court requirements or calls but that makes it unpredictable when she will be at the school.

Chief Klarén presented a support letter from Principal Stevens on this topic. This officer at the school 4 hours a week budget line total is \$5,000.00. The second added salary line is Police Department Training Time coverage. Chief Klarén said the security line 5190 that was created for additional officers during POTUS visits funding has been redirected to this new line. Chief Klarén said overall the budget is up 5.19 %.

Chairman Hannemann thanked Chief Klarén for presenting this budget.

At 9:48 PM with no further items on the agenda Mr. Glasgow moved to adjourn. Ms. Murphy seconded the motion.
SO VOTED: 6 Ayes

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

Document List:

- MVC MV Elder-Service Mapping report from MVC Nov. 2019
- FY21 Budget Binders
- Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard elderly (65+) population data
- County explanation page for warrant article for a County Stabilization Fund
- Chilmark School Principal's support letter for funding police officer Wednesday visits.
- RECC finance advisory committee budget sheet