

**Chilmark Budget Hearing #1, Finance Committee & Chilmark Board of Selectmen
January 23, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

Present: FinCom: Chairman Rob Hannemann, Eric Glasgow, Vicki Divoll, Susan Murphy, Bruce-Golden, Don Leopold and Marshall Carroll. Selectmen: Chairman James Malkin, Warren Doty and Bill Rossi. Others: Tim Carroll, Melanie Becker, Jennifer Christy, Sally Cook, Judith Flanders, Skipper-Manter, Bruce Stone, Rich Osness, Diana DeBlase, videographer Lynn Christoffers.

At 7:00 PM Chairman Hannemann called the meeting to order in the Selectmen's meeting room on the 2nd floor of the Chilmark Town Hall.

Budget department # 152 Human Resources Board (HRB) / COLA:

Jennifer Christy presented the HRB budget in Ms. Greene's (Chairman of HRB) absence. Ms. Christy said there was a slight increase due to actual costs of memberships and travel expenses for trainings. Tim Carroll pointed out the explanation page that Ms. Christy prepared outlining the entire budget and reasoning. There were no questions about the budget.

Tim Carroll said the COLA that was recommended by the HRB is a 2.2 % increase. Mr. Leopold (who is also on the HRB) said that there is a town policy that the COLA will not be lower than 1% or higher than 3% but that we utilize the figures from the New England CPIU index. Chairman Hannemann said other island towns are starting to look at our system for COLA.

Budget department #491 Chilmark Cemetery:

Cemetery Chairman Sally Cook and Commissioner Judith Flanders presented this budget. Ms. Cook said the commission is carrying on with Harriett Otteson's work (Harriett passed away this year). Ms. Cook said Ms. Flanders has been a very welcome addition to the Commission. Ms. Cook explained the biggest expense to the cemetery budget is the mowing and tree care. There was discussion about spending funds from the Floss / Mayhew fund to cover the increase due to tree care and additional mowing.

Chairman Doty said the Board of Selectmen took a tour of the cemetery and can confirm that the trees need extensive, costly work. Ms. Flanders said funds (\$19,000.00 was sum discussed) from the Floss / Mayhew account need to be released by the Board of Selectmen and reserve fund must go to Town Meeting to be voted. FinCom members thanked Ms. Cook and Ms. Flanders for their work on the cemetery budget.

Joyce Albertine and Tonya Larsen from Up Island Council on Aging arrived

Budget department #541 Up Island Council on Aging:

Ms. Albertine presented this budget with Ms. Larsen and board member Mr. Manter. The total proposed budget is \$139,470.13 and Chilmark's portion is 1/3 of that as it is split equally with Aquinnah and West Tisbury. Mr. Hannemann asked if there were duplicated services. Ms. Albertine explained that she is a health insurance specialist for seniors and that the HCAP serves people less than 60 years old and the immigrant community. There was discussion that each Social Service on MV should have a mission statement so it is clear what each does.

Keith Emin arrived.

Budget department #175 Planning Board:

Planning Board chairman Rich Osness presented this budget with Ms. Christy (Administrative Asst). Mr. Osness explained that the legal line is the biggest expense besides salary. This line needs to be available for legal counsel for the Form A applications.

#175 Planning Board Continued...

Tim Carroll said this is the only department allowed to have a legal budget line. Mr. Carroll explained that any unused legal funds are returned to free cash.

Budget department # 161 Town Clerk:

Town Clerk Jennifer Christy presented this budget and explanation sheets. Ms. Christy said her budget fluctuates due to Election years. There was discussion about the condition of the wooden ballot box and that the Clerk has secured a backup box for parts when it becomes necessary. There was also discussion about early voting and the option of Saturday voting. FinCom thanked Ms. Christy for the thorough data provided in the Clerk's explanation sheets for the FY2020 proposed budget.

Budget department #422 Highway Department:

Keith Emin Chilmark's Highway Superintendent presented this budget. Tim Carroll said Mr. Emin's budget shows an increase to his salary from 30 hours to 40 hours. Ms. Divoll asked how that 10 hour addition to a position happened. Tim Carroll said because there was more work to do. Mr. Malkin said over the past 2 years particularly in the spring we are relying more and more on the Highway department to get things done. Mr. Doty said we will be increasing the responsibilities of the Highway Superintendent to include the Menemsha parking lot, West Dock, Squibnocket Road and parking lot too. Ms. Murphy said taking off her FinCom hat and putting on her Cemetery Superintendent one she would like to have some help from Mr. Emin on the roads in the cemetery too. It was decided that the Selectmen would address this and not the FinCom at this time.

Budget department #423 Snow & Ice:

Marshall Carroll recommended keeping the budget at \$30,000.00 rather than the \$36,000.00 proposed which is a \$6,000.00 increase from last year. Discussion ensued. The FinCom and Selectmen decided \$30,000.00 as amended was appropriate.

Budget department #135 Town Accountant:

Town Accountant Ellen Biskis presented this budget. This budget was flat other than step increase and COLA in the salary line.

Budget department #136 Audit:

Ms. Biskis said we are in the first year of a 3 year contract with our auditors. The cost annually is budgeted at \$22,000.00. Ms. Biskis said she always thought it was good to change auditors but she said this company really knows our town and she found that to outweigh new eyes.

Budget department #292 Animal Control Officer (ACO):

Tim Carroll said this has not changed and the ACO has not been interested in tracking their mileage and that is why that line is underspent.

Budget department #296 Animal Inspector:

Chairman Hannemann pointed out that this is a perfect budget that requests \$1,200.00 and shows spent \$1,200.00.

At 8:51 PM with no further items for discussion Mr. Golden moved to adjourn. Mr. Glasgow seconded the motion.**SO VOTED:** FinCom: 7 Ayes, Selectmen: 3 Ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase. **Approved 01/22/2020**