

FY22 Budget Hearing #5 joint meeting of FinCom & Select Board Feb. 4, 2021 Minutes

Remote participants: FinCom Chairperson Rob Hannemann, Don Leopold, Eric Glasgow, Susan Murphy, Bruce Golden and Vicki Divoll, *Marshall Carroll was not present*. Select Board Chairperson Bill Rossi, James Malkin and Warren Doty. Others: Janet Weidner, Jane Kaplan, Ellen Biskis, Melanie Becker, Candy Shweder, Ebba Hierta and Diana DeBlase.

At 5:03 PM Chairperson Hannemann called meeting to order on the Zoom platform.
Minutes: from 1/20/2021 postponed

Library Department #610

Chilmark Library Director Ebba Hierta gave a report of how they have been operating and circulating materials during COVID pandemic. Ms. Hierta said Rodney Bunker was a great help in getting the HVAC filter systems running quickly.

Level funded other than the salary mandated increases and 20% required increase to materials. Our salary line is underspent this year and will return any unspent to free cash. Out of the 38 CLAMS libraries 35 are curbside pickup only.

Mr. Doty asked who the staff at the Chilmark Library was now. Ebba Hierta, Irene Tukesberry, Barbara Bassett and Sarah DeBettencourt started when we closed for COVID youth services and assistant director. Tracy Thorpe adult director and Thorpe Karabees part time circulation managing the book drop transfer to quarantine room.

Mr. Golden asked about the newspaper paper version subscription. Ms. Hierta said we let it laps but will renew. Mr. Doty said he experiences zoom fatigue, but have enjoyed the library programs from his dining room table.

Retirement of Debt Short Term interest 752s

Own Treasurer Ms. Becker said a 1.5% interest rate likely this spring.

Employee Benefit Contributions 910

Mr. Becker said the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group our health insurance group will increase Harvard Pilgrim 2%, increase Blue cross 3% so average is 2.8% increase. Premium holiday was also discussed.

Chairperson Hannemann asked for discussion about Dukes County Retirement System. Ms. Becker said the actuarial studies were reviewed and she met with Kelly McCracken (our retirement agent). About 5 years ago Accountant Biskis noted that Tri Town Ambulance (TTA) was not contributing. Chief Retmier contacted Kelly McCracken and there was some miss communication between them. \$112, 800, 00 was what Chief Retmier put into the budget. Ms. Becker asked that TTA be broken out as a separate unit. But finally the 2020 study came out with an actuary study. It is included in this FY22 Budget. Ms. Becker said other factors also effect this; they are group 4, not group 1 anymore. Mr. Carroll also noted step increases and grade changes. \$104,000 is the figure now for the TTA contribution.

Mr. Doty (Select Board liaison to TTA) said this was reviewed thoroughly and it is a valid increase. Ms. Becker said going forward we won't have a question of what it is.

Ms. Biskis said TTA health insurance went up. Ms. Becker said because of demographic changes. Mr. Doty asked how we are contributing to OPEB. Ms. Becker said normal cost + interest to fund unfunded liability we are making these contributions. This is actuarially calculated in past budgeting \$150,000 a year. So when we go out for bonding it will show we are using a preferred method.

Mr. Carroll pointed out that we hired the board administrators (Kisselgof & Shemeth)7% reduction in the hourly rate that we were paying Mr. Hodgkinson.

Mr. Malkin asked for rough idea what our over is compared to last year. Mr. Carroll said \$482,000.00. Chairperson Hannemann asked if we factored in increase in income for short-term rental tax. Mr. Carroll said we can't estimate more than we collected is past year.

Mr. Doty said the warrant articles are a very large (dollar) number this year.

Chairperson Hannemann said the warrant articles need review and discussion. Ms. Becker said on the subject of CCMHG we will post their audit on our website. Select Board Chairperson Bill Rossi asked when we can have a complete list of requested warrant articles. Mr. Carroll said by end of day Friday so you can review over the weekend.

At 6:00 PM Chairperson Hannemann asked for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Murphy moved to adjourn, Mr. Golden seconded the motion. Both FinCom & Select Board unanimously voted to adjourn.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

Approved 09/23/2021