

**FY22 Budget Hearing #6 FinCom & Select Board February 8, 2021 Joint Meeting Minutes**

Remote participation: FinCom: Chairperson Rob Hannemann, Don Leopold, Vicki Divoll, Susan Murphy, Eric Glasgow and Bruce Golden. *Marshall Carroll was not present.* Select Board: Chairperson Rossi, Warren Doty and James Malkin. Others: Chuck Hodgkinson, Amanda Sawyer, Melanie Becker, Joe Sullivan, Ambulance Chief Ben Retmier, Tim Rich, Skipper Manter and Diana DeBlase.

At 5:02 PM Chairperson Hannemann called meeting to order on the Zoom platform.

Minutes:

Draft minutes were deferred to future meeting.

Chilmark Firehouse Tri Town Ambulance Facility Financial Discussion

Chuck Hodgkinson did the introductions of persons involved with this project.

Chairperson Rossi said that this presentation has been specifically edited for financial discussion.

Slide show of concept by Pacheco Ross that led to purchase of 399 Middle Rd

There was many discussions with Fire Chief and Ambulance Chief to assess what was needed.

Fire Station & TTA HQ plans were presented

- Firehouse 4,507 sq ft
- TTA with shared services rooms 6,254 sq ft

Firehouse \$3,712,000 and TTA HQ \$4,086,000

With contingency and equipment, walkway and lighting 3% inflation for 1 year

- Cost estimate \$11.1 million
- Total Project Bonded Debt
- Cost sharing among 3 towns for the TTA HQ
- Chilmark's \$8,130,000 cost for both buildings and walkway
- Bond @3%interest 20 or 30-year tax increase of 15 or 19 cents per 1,000.

For example: \$750 property assessed \$143.00 or \$113.00 to help voters understand what cost will be to them. West Tisbury and Aquinnah prefer a 30-year bond.

Chairperson Hannemann asked if FinCom members had any questions.

Chairperson Rossi said we are asking voters to approve the whole lending amount of \$11.1 million. Ms. Divoll asked for borrowing figures. Mr. Hodgkinson said 2 years to build buildings, we will be spending \$5.5 million per year.

Town Treasurer Melanie Becker said our financial advisor David Eisenthal at Unibank laid out different borrowing options. Until voter approval there will not be a borrowing plan. Mr. Leopold asked if there is any disadvantages to 30 year bonding. Mr. Hodgkinson said risk of bonding bid amount and if it comes in less.

Ms. Murphy said when we started it was mentioned to be 7 or 8-million-dollar project. Mr. Hodgkinson said that was prior to space needs assessment. Chairperson Rossi said we also figured \$600.00 Sq ft then now it's about \$1,000.00 per sq ft.

Mr. Golden said this has been a great presentation by Chuck Hodgkinson.

Mr. Malkin said it makes no sense to breakup with multiple warrant articles, believes a single warrant is the way to go. Mr. Doty said this is the second presentation he has seen, and all of the questions he had have been answered. This has been a very good committee who have done great work. Mr. Doty said he agrees it should be a single warrant article. DL/ tradeoffs during the process. CH/ we really pushed cost and decided we really needed to go for what was needed. Js/ there was real heated discussion of the costs.

Warrant Articles for Annual Town Meeting 2021:

Mr. Carroll shared screen of warrant articles received from departments.

Ms. Biskis said this is already \$450,000 over our 2.5% override limit.

Mr. Carroll said \$7,200.00 grant was approved but now we are getting pullback from Federal Government so we are losing grant for generator at the Chilmark Community Center.

Chairperson Hannemann said last week at our education meeting school asked that we understand put in context this is part of a 9-year project they are not an endless series of construction warrant articles. We have asked for a 5-year projection of school warrant articles. Have not received this yet.

Chairperson Hannemann said as for the Dukes county sheriff RECC we requested they indicate how much was associated with maintenance and operations and any new capital.

Chairperson Hannemann said the RECC is very important to the entire island.

Tim Carroll / Town Administrator said they asked for operations money. Came back with maintenance needs to upgrade the radios for the island. 5-year plan for the grant of the maintenance part. There are no salaries but there is Comcast lines and operational expenses that are not large but somewhat permanent. After the 5 year grant we should reassess what we pay. Town Administrator Carroll said he requested the Sheriff's department submit 5 and 10-year plan.

Chairperson Hannemann said we have no idea what the full budget is and we don't have a contract. Unlike the school. Tim Carroll said we do have a written agreement. Mr. Malkin agree, our share of maintenance & give us that figure not more.

Mr. Malkin said he can re-meet with Harbormaster and return with revised articles.

Mr. Doty said including all the warrant articles we would need over \$400,000 override if we approve all of these.

Ms. Divoll said pertaining to Sherriff; like idea of returning asking for the maintenance of the installation figure. Ms. Divoll asked if we refuse what happens. Mr. Carroll said the whole thing falls apart.

Ms. Murphy said pertaining to the Dukes County regional services. She asked that they work on elimination of duplication of services. Healthy Aging MV what are they doing for the \$90,000.00 a year. Chairperson Hannemann said social services are only going up very modestly.

Don Leopold said he has asked these question of Social Services and hope to have them for next year. Chairperson Bill Rossi said the Social Services have done a good job with keeping the cost down.

Chairperson Hannemann said there are 4 dominant areas that are causing an override. Town, Debt service, benefits, and school.

- School \$340,629.73 for school warrant articles.

Mr. Malkin recommended working to take \$60,000.00 out of our budget.

Mr. Glasgow said we should review health care expenses for elected officials. Mr. Glasgow asked to look into if our practices are in line with other towns. Chairperson Hannemann said if this is discussed it should be done carefully.

At 6:41 PM with no further items for discussion Ms. Divoll moved to adjourn Ms. Murphy seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

**Approved 09/23/2021**