

Chilmark FY22 Budget Hearing #8 Joint Meeting of FinCom & Selectmen

February 10, 2021 Minutes

Remote participants: FinCom: Chairman Rob Hannemann, Bruce Golden, Susan Murphy, Vicky Divoll, Eric Glasgow. Marshall Carroll was not present. Select Board: Warren Doty, Bill Rossi, James Malkin.

At 5:00 PM Chairman Hannemann called the meeting to order.

Agenda:

- Review of discussion made on 2/9/2021
- Review of current override status (using Accountant's spreadsheet)
- Review & Vote on FY22 operating budget
- Vote on updated list of warrant articles (RECC excepted)

Accountant Biskis sent the following out to the FinCom to consider but was unable to attend meeting tonight.

Operating Budget Total **\$ 11,199,581.90**

revised list of WARRANT ARTICLES with funding source –

Town Accountant ADDED 50K to Pay Down the Tax Rate as an ARTICLE

The LEVY WORKSHEET is also attached to show where these totals bring us in relation to our LEVY LIMIT. WE ARE NOW **\$194,057.70 OVER THE LEVY LIMIT BEFORE any OVERRIDE OR EXCLUSION**

We are proposing a GENERAL OVERRIDE for the portion of the DEPT 300 - EDUCATION ASSESSMENT that exceeds 2 ½ % - \$135,000

Department 300 Education

FY22 3,852,161.55 \$225,608.53 or 6.22% increase over PY **FY21 3,626,553.02**

This brings us to a balance of **\$59,058 OVER THE LEVY LIMIT**

We can propose 1 YR Capital Exclusions on School ARTICLES

CHILMARK SCHOOL DOORS – \$52,202 and WT SCHOOL ROOF – \$41,151

OR CHILMARK SCHOOL WINDOWS PHASE III – \$153,376.

Mr. Doty spoke about Chilmark School Windows & Doors debt exclusion and possibly not have override at all. When we go to ballot box we would have 3 override debt exclusion for the Fire Station & TTA Headquarters.

Chairperson Hannemann said this is a very clear presentation from Tim & Ellen. Mr. Doty asked can we put 100,000.00 of free cash to pay down tax. Tim Carroll said it is best to leave at least \$100,00 in free cash.

Ms. Murphy asked what is stabilization fund for then. Tim Carroll said planned Capital projects and adds to 15% undesignated funds for liquidity for Bond rating.

Chairperson Hannemann asked what does the \$50,000 pay down in our tax rate.

Mr. Malkin said we need to be careful not to take down our free cash too far. Mr. Doty said this presentation from Tim & Ellen move to recommend as presented. Chairperson Rossi said the \$30,000.00 warrant article for the Shellfish hatchery needs to be added back in. Mr. Doty recommended we put that off until the fall. Mr. Doty said that project needs further review.

Chairperson Hannemann said the levy limit calculation does not include any increase to valuation due to construction. Tim Carroll said it includes \$60,000 new growth.

Tim Carroll discussed the need to consider the overlay.

Mr. Doty proposed the Chilmark school windows phase III amount – \$153,376. FinCom members present were in agreement.

Chairperson Hannemann requested a final pass-through of the budget itself. Using the final budget analysis page prepared by our Town Accountant (Ellen) 2/10/2021. We have a 4.23% increase from last year.

There was some discussion with resolution.

Mr. Glasgow moved to recommend the operating budget as presented. Ms. Divoll seconded the motion. **FinCom: SO VOTED: 6 Ayes, 1 not present.**

Warrant articles updated 2/10/21

Tim Carroll said harbor department articles have been restructured to be paid by Waterway funds. Mr. Doty said at Annual Town Meeting voters will vote to repurpose the unspent warrant articles.

Ms. Murphy moved to take no action on the CPC article funds. Ms. Divoll seconded the motion. **FinCom: SO VOTED: 6 Ayes, 1 not present**

Mr. Golden moved to approve to recommend articles with exception of RECC (Sheriff's article). Ms. Murphy seconded the motion. **FinCom: SO VOTED: 6 Ayes, 1 not present**

Chairperson Hannemann asked for discussion of Sherriff's article. Chairperson Hannemann said he wrote letter to sheriff's office requesting 2 articles 1 maintenance other for the other items. Chairperson Hannemann said that Peter Graczykowski sent a response list.

Ms. Divoll said my vote is no to request as presented. Maybe when they split the article with more clear presentation for the funding requests. Chairperson Hannemann shared screen of items and said the highlighted items are not considered maintenance. Ms. Murphy asked didn't we agree to our share of maintenance. Ms. Divoll said yes.

Chairperson Rossi said wasn't the debate if the State was paying.

Tim Carroll said we all pay a share (1/6) but then we each pay a usage amount as well.

Mr. Carroll said the Sherriff's office consistently said these operating expenses are the extras that are not being covered by the grant but they might go on forever.

Mr. Malkin said the history is we were clear the town didn't want to take on expenses that are the responsibility of the State. Upgrade & maintenance of system.

RECC article discussion continued...

Mr. Leopold asked what are the operating implications are if we say no. Mr. Carroll said they would be unable to do the upgrade. Chiefs have hard time communicating with departments and other towns.

Mr. Malkin said the Chilmark Climate Committee does have concerns about the island wide communication. Mr. Carroll recommended that Ms. Divoll come to the next RECC meeting.

Ms. Murphy moved to accept article as written and add more if we get it. Mr. Leopold requested a friendly edit to motion, to express our request for more transparency moving forward. Mr. Glasgow moved to approve amended motion. Ms. Murphy seconded.

FinCom: **SO VOTED: 4 Ayes, 2 Nays Ms. Divoll, Chairperson Hannemann, 1 Not present.**

Follow-up with discussion of process with our budget hearing meetings.

Mr. Doty said the process was very different, but thank you all for this effort.

FinCom liaison to Sherriff re-visit in wrap-up.

Mr. Malkin said he agrees with Warren; difficult to follow numbers but we worked our way through it. Recommend the liaisons be more involved in presenting department the budgets you are liaison for. Tim Carroll said to all thanks for your patients. Chairperson Hannemann said Ellen Biskis (Town Accountant) has been doing a terrific job for us.

Mr. Leopold moved to adjourn. Mr. Golden seconded the motion. **FinCom: SO VOTED: 6 Ayes, 1 Not present. Select Board: SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

At 6:14 meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

Approved 09/23/2021

Document list:

- Levy worksheet
- FY22 budget book
- Proposed warrant articles and how to fund proposal