



TOWN OF CHILMARK CHILMARK, MASSACHUSETTS

Board of Health

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Hours: 9am to 2pm, M-F

To: The Chilmark Finance Committee
From: The Chilmark Board of Health

December 21, 2018

Re: Proposed BOH Budget FY 2020

We would like to present our draft budget to you with the attached outline and touch on a few of the more pertinent changes below, as follows:

Public Nursing Program

Earlier this year, we held a brief meeting with the FinCom to inform you of our new public nursing contract with the Island Health Care Clinic. As you know, the nursing program has underperformed in recent years, and we now have confidence that we will be able to expand much-needed services to residents of Chilmark, and to actively participate in island-wide public health initiatives yielding significant benefits to the town.

For FY'20 we would like to propose increasing the public nursing line from \$9,515 to \$13,500. This is not significantly above what would have been budgeted had we continued to see a healthy 3% growth in services from 2014 through the present¹, at a rate not even in step with the rate of population increase of the town in this period. In addition to the IHC contract (which in addition to nursing home visits also covers the annual flu immunization clinic, participation in support of the Medical Reserve Corps for medical support capacity during a large-scale disaster on MV, and collaboration with the Up-Island Council on Aging), this funding will also cover the BOH commitment to the Island Wide Youth Collaborative (IWYC), a program of the MV Community Services targeting youth and their families. Town support for

¹ In FY'14, the public nursing budget was \$12,000. 3% annual growth would have given us a budget of \$13,440 in FY'20. By contrast, the Chilmark population has grown over 20% during the same period.

the IWYC was originally put before the voters in a warrant article at the 2015 ATM where it passed and was henceforth incorporated into the regular BOH budget.

Vector-Borne Illness Education, Prevention and Surveillance

This line item was formerly limited to the cost of mosquito surveillance, a long-standing town program. As of FY'20, we would like to incorporate activities addressing the scourge of tick-borne illnesses in this line item.

Mosquitos:

As you know, mosquito-borne illnesses have increased in recent decades. Furthermore, we are likely to see additional illnesses come to the fore as more southern mosquito species make their way into our region on the heels of a changing climate. Martha's Vineyard is now an independent Mosquito Control District, no longer under the Cape, and our program is administered by the County and carried out by Richard Johnson. We test in one location in Chilmark, near the School and Library/Community Center campus, and testing for the season cost Chilmark \$1,090.18, in an even six-way split among the towns.

Tick-Borne Illness Program

The program activities funded under this line item originated with a Martha's Vineyard Hospital grant in 2009, and the program, much of which is administered through the County and run by Richard Johnson, has grown considerably during this period. As you know, Chilmark is highly-burdened by tick-borne illness, and the program, in particular the yard surveys conducted to instruct homeowners in how to protect themselves, has been very popular. \$1,750 is Chilmark's share under the 50/50 formula. The towns' contribution to the TBI program represents only a fraction of the total cost of activities under this popular program, which is largely funded by private contributions, but indicates valuable buy-in from municipal governments.

Sincerely,



Katherine T. Carroll, Chair
Chilmark Board of Health

Cc: Tim Carroll, Town Administrator