

DUKES COUNTY SHERIFF – Funding Request update

From: **Peter** Date: Fri, Jan 19, 2018 at 9:24 AM Subject: RE: Ch. 61 of Acts of 2009 To: Vicki
To see if the Town of Chilmark will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds Twenty-Two-Thousand-Three-Hundred-Thirty-Two-Dollars-And-Seventy-Six-Cents (\$22,332.76), or fifty per cent (50%) of the Town's proportionate share of the fiscal year 2019 cost of the Dukes County Regional Emergency Communication Center, based on the volume of dispatches, tied to call origin, for all of the Town's agencies.

Explanation: Dukes County Regional Communication Center (RECC) was established in 1964 as the most efficient way to provide dispatch operations for the Island towns. Towns that had used RECC were funding its operating and capital budgets through the real estate valuation based assessments and deeds excise tax, administered by the County, from 1964 to 2009.

In 2010, when the State of Massachusetts assumed the funding for the operation of the Sheriff's Office, Towns stopped paying the County assessments for the Sheriff's Office functions. The State has not fully funded all of the existing operations of the Sheriff's Office, including the House of Correction, Regional Jail & Lockup, Regional Emergency Communication Center. RECC is truly a regional operation, not contemplated in the fiscal support structure by the State, despite the annual request for funding from the Sheriff's Office. It is considered a need that should be funded locally.

There are four regional emergency communication centers, run by Sheriff's Offices in the State – Barnstable, Berkshire, Dukes and Essex. Dukes is the only one that does not currently charge participating communities for RECC's use since the 2010 transition to the State. **(what do others charge?)**

After limited State 911 Department Support & Incentive grant funding of \$216,418, the RECC's deficit in **FY 2019 is estimated to be \$676,632.15**, with no viable solution to sustain the level of service.

- Starting with FY 2019, the Towns are asked to pay initially only 50% of their share of the RECC operating costs.
- In future fiscal years, once the Towns can plan for this fee-based service, the percentage of each share will reach 100%.
- Upon approval of the warrant, the Town will be asked to sign a Memorandum of Agreement that will outline the RECC services and the annual assessment.
- The Dukes County Sheriff's Office Communications Fund Expendable Trust will be set up by the State Secretary of A&F, where the annual assessments will be deposited, and then made available as a separate appropriation to help fund the operation of the Dukes County RECC.
- An advisory committee will be established for the RECC assessments and related operations, with the participation of all contributing Towns. **(Contributing? What if a town doesn't?)**

The proposed assessment is based on an allocated dispatch volume, tied to call origin:

(Will this assessment change annually?)

FY 2019 Assessment	FY 2017 Calls	% Allocation	FY 2019 - 100%	FY 2019 - 50%
Aquinnah	1,036	2.53%	\$17,094.00	\$8,547.00
Chilmark	2,707	6.60%	\$44,665.51	\$22,332.76
Dukes County Sheriff	47	0.11%	\$775.50	\$387.75
Edgartown	11,267	27.48%	\$185,905.54	\$92,952.77
Gosnold	14	0.03%	\$231.00	\$115.50
Oak Bluffs	12,078	29.45%	\$199,287.05	\$99,643.52
Tisbury	9,425	22.98%	\$155,512.54	\$77,756.27
West Tisbury	4,434	10.81%	\$73,161.02	\$36,580.51
Totals	41,008	100.00%	\$676,632.15	\$338,316.08