

Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes of Meeting 3/6/2020
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Meeting Room

Members present: Chairman Allen Rugg, Mark Foster, Tom Murphy

Also present: Accountant Emily Day, Town Administrator Jeffrey Madison, West Tisbury School Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Chilmark School Principal Susan Stevens, MV High School Finance Manager Mark Friedman, MV School Superintendent Matt D'Andrea, Selectmen Gary Haley, Selectmen Julie Vanderhoop, Selectmen Jim Newman, Lighthouse Committee Chair Len Butler, Lighthouse Committee Chair Richard Skidmore

- The meeting began at 9:30am.

- The Committee met with Education representatives and reviewed the proposed FY'21 assessments and warrant articles. Up Island School representatives gave brief overviews of the Up Island Regional School budget which was comprised of 4 assessments. Up Island Regional School District FY'21 budget is \$12,595,290.31 (increase of 3.8% from FY'20). Aquinnah's assessment decreased given that the number of Aquinnah children in the schools decreased. The Committee reviewed and discussed the Up Island School warrant articles: Chilmark window upgrades (3rd and final phase to be approved), West Tisbury School Roofing Project Design (will return in FY'22 for approval of construction cost), and the West Tisbury School Resource Officer. There was lengthy discussion concerning the budgeting for a Police Resource Officer. The Committee met with High School representatives to review and discuss the FY'21 assessment. The following was discussed: 2.25% increase in contractual agreements, new contingency fund added to the budget (address emergency items that are not budgeted), the overall 2.05% increase assessment, capital improvements, warrant article for the replacement of a dust collecting system, and the additional warrant article to come after School Committee review and approval (article will have no effect on the bottom line figure and is only for concurrence to enter into a "lease to own" program for school buses - annual lease cost is already built into budget).

- Next, the Committee met with Chief Ben Retmier, Tri Town Ambulance, to discuss the FY'21 assessment. Initial budget included an increase in pay for day and night shifts to incentivize volunteers during the off-season. However, after review from West Tisbury and Chilmark officials, the initial salary budget decreased: off season nightshift budget is \$120,450 and off-season day shift budget is \$75,375. Overall salary budget increased by 7.98% from FY'20 (\$67,206.58 increase). Overall increase is \$61,065.49 (4.69%). Total revenue brought in which offset the budget was \$218,048.15. Aquinnah's assessment is \$385,519.11, an increase of \$14,229.08 (3.8% increase). Some budget line items were level funded. There was brief discussion concerning the new Tri Town Safety building and FY'22 funding projections. Chief Retmier gave a brief overview of the Retirement assessment which had been fully funded by Chilmark. Emily requested a detailed breakdown on which fiscal year Aquinnah overpaid, a detailed calculation of what is owed by Aquinnah and a detailed account of funds that Chilmark will waive.

- There was discussion concerning the Clerks request to increase her hours to 20hrs/week. Jeff informed the Committee that her position already qualifies for insurance coverage because it is an elected position and the requested increase in hours would not affect the insurance budget. Jeff recommended that the Committee recommend the requested hour increase.

- The Committee met with Len Butler and Richard Skidmore of the Lighthouse Committee to review the requested FY'21 budget. The following was discussed: cost for Lighthouse restoration and urgency (next phase is the lantern room which will cost approx. \$125,000), bond for Town improvement projects, raising Lighthouse admission price which would increase annual revenue by \$20,000, and private fundraising and grants. Everyone agreed to continue the discussion to find a solution for funding.

- Next Finance Comm. meetings: final warrant articles due March 27th, next Fin Comm meeting March 30th at 9:30am (meeting with Police, Fire and Treasurer), meeting on April 3rd and a final Fin Comm meeting April 6th at 9:30am.

- With no other business to discuss, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn. **The Committee voted 3-0 in favor. The motion passed.** The meeting ended at 12:16am.

Respectfully submitted,
Sophia Welch
Board Administrative Assistant