

Aquinnah Joint Finance Committee and Select Board Meeting

March 9th, 2021

Minutes

This meeting was held via videoconference

Members Present: Allen Rugg, Tom Murphy, Mark Foster & Howard Goldstein (alternate member)

Also Present: Accountant Emily Day, Town Administrator Jeff Madison, Select Board Chair Jim Newman, Select Board Gary Haley, Treasurer Sibel Suman, Fire Chief Bolin, Town Clerk, Gabbi Camilleri, Admin Assistant Sophia Welch, Dukes County Manager Martina Thornton, Karen Tewhey, Homeless Prevention Program, Leslie Clapp, Center for Living, Cindy Trish, MV Council on Aging and Beth Folcarelli, MVCS

- Allen called the meeting to order at 9:33am

- Mark motioned to approve the 2/1/21 meeting minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Allen.
The Committee voted 3-0, the motion passed.

- **Town Clerk:** Gabbi Camilleri, Town Clerk, presented proposed budget: salary line item increasing by 6% (step and COLA); expense line item increasing to accommodate an 80hr contracted position to organize the Clerk files and the town vault files; there was discussion regarding the responsibilities of this position and the records/files to be organized.

- **Property Manager:** Gabbi Camilleri, Property Manager, presented the FY'22 budget: increase in wage line item from \$1,500 to \$2,000; the Committee discussed the properties that Gabbi manages and event pricing.

- **Fire Department:** Chief Bolin presented the Fire Dept. FY'22 budget: The Chief contract expired in FY'21; due to covid the Select Board decided to level fund the Chief wage for FY'21; Bolin is requesting a new 3-year contract to start at \$45,500 for the first year (13.75% increase); Firefighter wage line item increase to \$36,000 (5.88% increase); expense line item to remain the same; the Committee discussed the proposed 3-year contract and inspection costs.

- **Dukes County:** Martina Thornton, Dukes County Manager, reviewed the 50/50 formula and overall assessment for Aquinnah (presented as warrant articles): Aquinnah's shared assessment is 3.28%; total requested to fund the County programs is \$36,213 and \$5,850 bond for the payment of the County building (payment is based on the 2016 50/50 formula when the bond was approved island wide); each warrant article and program was discussed as follows:

- Karen Tewhey: Homelessness Prevention is requesting \$1,674 (\$55,560 overall budget) to fund a full-time prevention coordinator position and associated expenses; this program has been contracted out to Harbor Homes, a non-profit organization; position will not duplicate any position covered under Harbor Homes.

- Leslie Clapp: Center for Living is requesting \$15,614 (\$518,135 overall budget); there was brief discussion regarding the programs available.

- Beth Folcarelli: Martha's Vineyard Community Services is requesting \$281 for First Stop (\$9,316 overall budget) and \$3,066 for CORE (\$101,741 overall budget).

- Cindy Trish: Healthy Aging is requesting \$3,208 (\$106,452 overall budget); there was brief discussion of each program and the decrease in budget from FY'21.

- Martina Thornton: Social Services is requesting \$1,291 (\$42,832 overall budget); total budget has decreased from FY'21; request is the remaining amount to fund a full-time case worker position (budget is supplemented with grants); requested amount could increase by \$40 if the County Advisory Board approves a retirement contribution request.

- Martina Thornton: Vineyard Health Care Access Program is requesting \$11,079 (\$367,647 overall budget); budget has decreased from FY'21; similar to Social services request, amount requested could increase by \$670 if the County Advisory Board approves a retirement contribution request.

- **Planning Board:** salary line item increasing 6% (3% COLA and set increase); expenses to remain the same.

- The Committee briefly discussed the MV Commission assessment. Assessment has decreased 8.17%. The Committee agreed that they did not need to meet with the Commission. Committee instituted a policy where if an entity reduces their request, there is no reason for a presentation/meeting with the Fin Comm.

- **Conservation Commission:** \$200 expense budget (no change)

- **Board of Appeals:** \$100 expense budget (no change)

- **Building Inspector:** \$10,000 for Building Insp. wages, \$1,000 for Clerk wages and \$1,000 for expenses (no change).

- Committee will meet Thursday, March 11th with the Board of Health and the Harbormaster. School Committee and DPW are scheduled for Friday, March 12th. Library budget is waiting on Trustee approval. Police budget is still undetermined (waiting on Police contract agreement).

- The following were identified as open issues to revisit: 3% COLA; whether the re-evaluation is included in the assessing contract; Treasure's hours; Fire Chief contract; and the Police contracts. The Committee reviewed the Clear Gov budgeting platform. Sibel informed the Committee that total cost of the 3% cola is under \$10,000. This amount does not include Police COLAs. The Committee thanked everyone for joining and acknowledged the work of the social service workers they met with.

- Meeting adjourned at 11:13am.

Respectfully submitted, Sophia Welch