

## **Aquinnah Joint Finance Committee and Select Board Meeting**

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 - Minutes

*Meeting was held via videoconference*

Members Present: Allen Rugg, Howard Goldstein, Mark Foster & Jim Newman (alternate member)

Also present: Town Administrator Jeff Madison, Town Accountant Emily Day, MVPS Business Admin Mark Friedman, Select Board member Tom Murphy, Select Board Chair Gary Haley, Aquinnah UIRSD Rep Roxanne Ackerman

- Allen called the Fin Comm meeting to order at 9:32am

- Up Island Regional School District Excess and Deficiency Funds: UIRSD has a proposed budget of \$13,900,000 with Aquinnah's portion of \$1,521,000 (down \$18,000 from prior year due to reduction in enrollment); Proposal is to apply excess and deficiency funds to reduce the budget; E&D funds are approx. \$800,000 and accrued as a result to roll over from previous years, unexpected State revenue savings, contingency funds and unbudgeted changes; Proposal is to apply \$337,000 to reduce the budget; If there is no pay down of the budget there will be an E&D balance of approx. \$100,000 will be spent on items Fin Comm is not familiar with, resulting in a budget increase of about 6.79%; If there is a pay down, E&D will be approx. \$460,000 of which \$100,000 will be spent on items Fin Comm not familiar with and budget increase will be 4.96%; Impact will be most felt in West Tisbury (budget has increased due to increase in enrollment); State statute provides that E&D funds may be used in this manner; Allen proposed entertaining and passing one of two motions: first motion being that the Aquinnah Fin Comm support the application of approx. \$337,000 of E&D funds to reduce the UIRSD budget - second/alternative motion being Aquinnah Fin Comm does not support the application of \$337,000 of E&D to reduce the budget.

Roxanne noted that using the E&D to reduce budget would be a relief on taxpayers. Chilmark was against the pay down ("kicking the can" principal and if pay down is done it compounds the budget next year). Allen noted that the current Fin Comm has not encountered this issue and that using the suggestion of reducing the budget has the effect of returning the money to the town because it reduces the assessment with the exception that it doesn't return to general funds but is used for education. Savings for Aquinnah is nominal, but it is the mission of the Fin Comm to reduce the budget. Allen was in favor of supporting the pay down and felt that the UIRSD reviews the budget in good faith. Regional school districts in MA and are similar to a town's free cash with the exception that regional school districts can only keep up to 5% of the operating budget as E&D funds.

Allen motioned that the Aquinnah Finance Committee support the application of approx. \$337,000 of excess and deficiency funds to reduce the UIRSD budget. Howard seconded. **The Committee voted 3-0, motion passed.**

- Fin Comm meeting adjourned at 9:53am.

### Select Board Meeting

- Gary called the Select Board meeting to order at 9:53am.

- Select Board concurred with Fin Comm's recommendation. Tom motioned to endorse the recommendation of the Fin Comm. Gary seconded. **The Board voted 2-0, motion passed.** Jeffrey will communicate the actions of the Fin Comm and Select Board to the Superintendents office and other two

towns. Roxanne encouraged people to attend the upcoming UIRSD meeting where the auditors will be reporting.

- Select Board meeting adjourned at 9:58am.

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia Welch