

## Aquinnah Finance Committee Meeting

March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

*This meeting was held via videoconference*

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

Not present: Mark Foster

Also present: Town Administrator Jeff Madison, Select Board Tom Murphy, Superintendent Matthew D'Andrea, Asst Supt. Richie Smith, Interim School Business Admin Mark Friedman, West Tisbury School Principal Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Regional High School Principal Sara Dingley, Suzanne Cioffi (High School CFO), High School Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects Sam Hart, Aquinnah School Committee Rep Roxanne Ackerman, Dukes County Sheriff Lt. Col. Peter Graczykowski

Allen called the meeting to order at 9:30am

- MV Regional High School: MVRHS reps presented a FY 23 budget highlight sheet. Overall increase is 5.65% but is reduced to 4.65% with the E&D offset (E&D offset going to mostly one-time expenses in facilities).

Fixed cost increases due to salary increments, contractual increases (anticipated with a place holder figure), new positions, debt service updates (wastewater betterment fees and roof project interest) as well as additional budget changes due to insurance premiums, facilities (heating building), and transportation expenses (island wide expense increase).

Capital projects (immediate needs and areas that will not be addressed in major school renovation) included the following: shingling, doors and frames, CTE roof design, floors, culinary arts renovation, girls locker room updates, hot water design, cafeteria equipment (last year in budget), zero turn mower, electrification consultant for buses and vans, bus driver retention.

Reps gave a brief demographic report inclusive of the State Report Card. Reps noted that the MVRHS is serving more students and trying to find efficiency where they can as well as upgrade the buildings. The expenditure/student cost is in the \$29,000 range. Committee discussed regionalization and COLA (based on average of prior years and where it may fall). Committee requested written analysis on regionalization issue.

The Contingency Fund is \$600,000 of which \$150,000 has been spent this year (ELL position and track project now in front of Oak Bluffs Planning Board for special permit).

There are no warrant articles for this year, but the town can anticipate a level of discussion concerning the Mass School Building Authority project. There will be upcoming select board meetings to begin the conversation concerning the shared costs for school's addition.

- Up Island School District:

4.25% increase to West Tisbury School budget. Main increases: contractual increases, negotiations placeholder, substitutes, network security, technology phase III, ESPs (one on one assistants where a student's plan calls for it), student accident insurance, and health insurance. Main decrease in budget is line item for new hires.

23.21% increase to Chilmark School budget. Numbers have grown and school has added an additional classroom (is currently happening now but was not included in FY 22 budget). Main increases: contractual increase, kind ESP, Reg teacher, negotiations placeholder, SPEC teacher, ESP, Tech security, nurse position (hiring of new nurse on higher step), and health insurance.

3.08% increase to Up Island School District budget. Main Increases: contractual increases, computer technician (additional bump to technicians pay), negotiations placeholder, Other Post Employment Benefits (with increase for FY 23 the district will be at actuarially employer contribution rate sufficient enough to stop liability growing and begin to pay off), health insurance, and transportation. Main decrease: debt service.

Total budget reflects a 6.34% increase (\$828,000 increase before \$320,000 E&D offset). Total budget FY 23 budget is \$13,902,739.93.

Warrant articles (Aquinnah's share): West Tisbury School roof \$23,227.68 (replacement of part of roof – outstanding issue from the fall), Special Education Stabilization Fund (no appropriation only authorization to establish fund), Chilmark School emergency backup generator \$7,969 (total estimate cost is \$108,000).

- Dukes County Sheriff's Office – Lt. Col. Peter Graczykowski presented the FY 23 assessment: ongoing maintenance of communication system agreement with all 6 towns (cost will be stable year to year), generator maintenance and internet lease cost (small portion of assessment). Cost share is allocated based on formula: 50% split equally between 6 towns and other 50% split based on use/per town. Aquinnah's share is \$26,648.36.

- Next meeting scheduled for March 25<sup>th</sup>. Schedule is dependent on Emily's availability.

- Committee briefly discussed regionalization of school system and cost/student for the high school and elementary schools.

*Adjourn 11:00am*

Respectfully submitted,

Sophia Welch