

## Aquinnah Finance Committee Meeting

April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Minutes

*Meeting was held via videoconference*

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

Not present: Mark Foster

Also present: Town Administrator Jeff Madison, Town Accountant Emily Day, Select Member Tom Murphy

Allen called the meeting to order at 9:30am

Minutes: Howard motioned to approve the 4/8/22 minutes. Allen seconded. Committee voted 2-0-1, motion passed. Jim was not present for meeting and abstained.

Budget: changes from 4/8 meeting was the reduction of \$50,000 OPEB contribution in the budget to \$25,000 and additional payment of \$25,000 was put as a potential override warrant article. Overall budget stands at \$5,822,801 (3.5% increase and a smaller percentage increase from FY21 to FY22).

Warrant: FY23 levy stands at \$5,834,877. FY23 Departmental budget stands at \$5,822,801. \$12,086 under levy limit. Warrant articles covered by free cash calculate to \$86,732. Remaining \$226,000 articles proposed as separate override ballot questions and warrant articles.

Review of financial impactful questions and articles on warrant:

*Question 2:* \$26,000 for parking voucher dispensers - system will hopefully generate approx. \$50,000 annually by capturing revenue during months attendant is not working. Machines have life expectancy of 5-6 years, are mobile, solar operated and rates can be adjusted.

Article 3: departmental budget.

Article 5: \$200,000 engineering and schematic design costs related to renovating the Town Hall/Town Offices and Comfort Station at Aquinnah Circle (override ballot question 1).

Article 6: \$5,000.00 to pay toward Transportation Engineering services for design work and/or technical analyses on Town projects, with funds administered by the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

Article 7: \$5,885 to pay for the prior year's Local Aid Shortfall Payments to the Massachusetts State Treasury (Nine-Tenths Majority Required). Monthly invoice from the state. Request reflects a missed payment from June 2020 and instead of the State applying the proceeding monthly payments, the invoice remained open.

Article 8: \$5,000 to pay the Town share of salary and expenses to hire an Island-wide Emergency Management Coordinator (this appropriation is contingent upon approval of all other towns in Dukes County).

Article 9: \$35,852 for highway construction or improvements from the Town of Aquinnah's Chapter 90 local transportation aid apportionment from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for FY 2023. Money to be reimbursed by State.

Article 10: \$26,649 to support the maintenance costs of the Martha's Vineyard Public Safety Communication System in accordance with the Cooperative Agreement for Emergency Communications and Dispatch Services (contingent on all Island Towns paying for such costs in Fiscal Year 2023 according to the agreed upon dispatch and fixed cost formula).

Article 11: \$7,970 purchase and installation of services, supplies, equipment and materials related to an Emergency Generator for the Chilmark School building.

Article 12: Up-Island Regional School District establishment of a Special Education Stabilization Fund.

Article 13: \$23,228 cost for replacing a portion of the Roof in or on the West Tisbury School building – unsure if the school will put this off for a year.

Article 17: \$3,000 from available funds in the Waterways Fund to pay for the of removal of Codium from Menemsha Pond (article request from Shellfish Committee) – invasive species that impairs all shellfish reproduction in pond. State allows towns to set up waterways fund which is funded through mooring fees. Town is allowed to transfer funds to deal with waterway safety and pond issues.

Article 18: \$26,000 to purchase parking voucher dispensers for the municipal parking lot (override ballot question 2).

Article 19: exemption of first \$10,000.00 of value of personal property from collection of a personal property tax. Raised and recommended by auditor.

Article 20: \$13,003 from available funds to pay for the first year of a 4 (four) year lease for a hybrid vehicle to be used by the Police Department.

Article 25: CPC borrowing of \$400,000 for payment of the Town's share of the cost of design and construction of four units of affordable rental housing – Town credit is being relied on, but funds will be coming from CPC, thus, Fin Comm felt comfortable recommending article.

Article 28: transfer, convey or lease a portion of the Town-owned land, behind Town Hall for the creation and development of four units of affordable housing - does impact town finances but Fin Comm recommended.

Emily noted that the estimate for free cash will be around \$100,000. Amount will be verified in the next couple weeks.

Allen motioned to recommend the adoption of the following: article 1 question 2, articles 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, 20, 25, and 28. Howard seconded. Committee voted 3-0, motion passed.

Fin Comm thanked the staff and Select Board for their work on the warrant and budget. Jeff expressed his gratitude to everyone.

*Adjourn 10:19am*

Respectfully submitted,  
Sophia Welch