

Finance Committee

March 16th, 2023 Meeting

4:02pm

Meeting occurred both in person and via zoom (**attendees via zoom*)

Present: Howard Goldstein *, Jim Newman

Also present: Jeff Madison, Town Administrator; Emily Day, Town Accountant; Ellie Parece*, Administrative Assistant to Superintendent; Donna Lowell-Bettencourt*, West Tisbury School Principal; Sarah Dingley*, High School Principal; Susan Stevens, Chilmark School Principal; John Stevens; Sam Hart, High School Coordinator of Pathways and Special Projects; Suzanne Cioffi*, High School Finance Director; Mark Friedman, School Business Administrator; Richie Smith, Superintendent of Schools; Hope MacLeod, Director of Student Support Services; Jim Mahoney, Aquinnah Representative High School Committee

School FY24 Budgets/Assessments:

West Tisbury School: School officials gave a presentation on background information regarding enrolment, programs and testing over the past 10 years. FY24 budget highlights: insurance increase, sport coaches wage increase due to increase of steps; off island field trip increases; tech equipment and hardware increase (4th of 5 year increase); furniture expense increase; reduction of 1 ESP position; reduce summer SPED salary; increase fuel (based on FY22 actuals); reduction on water systems costs; alarm system, landfill, general maintenance and snow removal increases (based on FY22 actuals); largest driver of budget increase are the collective bargaining agreements settled in November 2022 (equivalent of a 5% increase for FY24). Overall, a 6.42% increase to budget.

Chilmark School: Principal gave a brief overview on enrollment (increased and driving the budget) and testing; additional student enrollment has increased the need for additional classrooms and personnel (22% student increase); other increases are contractual; smaller line items have been reduced (student data management system, equipment, research and development, furniture, benefited one position and eliminated another, conferences, kindergarten supplies, copier maintenance, extra food expenses); increase reading specialist; artist in residence eliminated (looking for grant to cover cost); increase in field trip line item; increase in fuel and electricity and ground maintenance; insurance is contractual. Overall, a 11.13% increase.

High School: Principal gave a brief FY24 budget, enrollment and testing/achievement presentation; overall increase is 2.11% and overall assessed increase is 3.46% (in past years this was offset by use Excess and Deficiency (E&D) funds); driving forces are contractual agreements and personnel, residential placements (cost has increased by 14%) and costs in goods and services for supplies; reductions in capital investments in consideration of an MSBA building project; enrollment has increased approx. 75 students in the past 1-2 years. Aquinnah's Assessment is decreasing by approx. \$28,000.

Overall increase for Up Island District is 5.05%. Total expenses, before revenue/reimbursements, are increasing by 7.12% (abnormal high increase mostly driven by contractual increases and increase in student population); Aquinnah's assessment is increasing by 16.7% (driven by Aquinnah's share of 7.12% increase and additional 4 students from Aquinnah in Up Island District).

Warrant Articles:

Up Island School District originally submitted two requests: West Tisbury space need study funds and West Tisbury School HVAC repairs and electrical repairs; Up Island District has voted to use E&D funds to pay for the HVAC and electrical repairs (request to be removed from warrant).

MV Public School Shared Services FY24 Budget:

Representative gave a brief student support services update/overview on shared programs; FY24 budget is \$8,148,666 with an overall 5.75% increase; committee reviewed budget increases and reductions.

Other Business: Brief discussion took place concerning increase of short-term tax rental from 4% to 6%. Jeff was unsure of the proper process to increase the percentage.

Next Meeting: Wednesday March 22 at 2pm. Emily will send out a revised draft of the budget inclusive of the wage scale adjustment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30pm