

West Tisbury Finance Committee

Tuesday, February 4, 2020

A regular meeting of the West Tisbury Finance Committee was scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, 2020, at 5:00 PM at the Howe's House, State Road, West Tisbury.

PRESENT: Gary Montrowl, Jane Dreeben, Greg Orcutt (Chair), Doug Ruskin, Clark Rattet,

ABSENT:

Also present: Jennifer Rand (Town Administrator); Bruce Stone (Town Accountant); Skipper Manter, Kent Healy (Select Board)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM, and a quorum was declared.

Mr. Orcutt briefly outlined the expected order of business for the meeting, as well as for the overall schedule.

BUSINESS

Review of the 2021 MVC Budget

Present from the MV Commission: Adam Turner (Executive Director), Curt Schroeder (Financial Administrator)

Presentation

Mr. Turner presented the budget proposed for the next fiscal year. Mr. Turner noted that

- The Commission is working to recoup the \$80,000 spent on litigation related to the proposed tribal gaming hall in Aquinnah.
- Health costs have increased by \$22,000.
- OPEB costs are also a factor;
- Overall the budget increase is about 2.5%.
- Salary budget items are flat.
- West Tisbury's share over the past five years has decreased; the 2021 budget is the first increase proposed for West Tisbury.
- Despite an increase in costs in telecom (related to changes in the phone system), overall costs for telecom remain 65% lower than 2019.
- A DOT grant (\$324,000) is in place, plus a \$100,000 grant for technical assistance – both are confirmed.
- Current staffing levels are at about twelve.
- Changes predicted in the next 5 to 10 years include a focus on climate change, more collaborative work with the towns, and better use of technology to present and analyze raw data.

Mr. Turner and Mr. Schroeder were thanked for their time.

Review of the 2021 Count of Dukes County Budget

Present: Ms. Martina Thornton, Ms Leslie Clapp (Director of MV Center for Living), Ms. Julie Fay (Executive Director, Martha's Vineyard Community Services), Ms. Patricia "Paddy" Moore

(Healthy Aging - Martha's Vineyard), and Sarah Kuh (Director, Vineyard Health Care Access).

Ms. Clapp addressed the general budget for her agency, and noted certain changes from previous year:

- Two county employees (40 hours / 35 hours) have resigned; those two positions are combined into a single 40-hour position (Supportive Day Program Supervisor) with a PT (15 hours) meals program assistant added.
- Transportation will no longer be fully provided by the VTA. The VTA will provide a 'free-lease' vehicle; however, a driver and all maintenance costs will be covered by the program (about \$50,000 annually), some of which may be grant funded.
- Health-insurance has dropped from \$50k to about \$38k.
- Building expenses are slightly higher (due to insurance).
- Enrollment in the program is expected to be about 30. IT could likely rise to 40 in the near future, which could require more staff or staff hours.
- The second floor has been rented to the Island Integrated Health Care Collaborative; rent is based only on a portion of the expenses; that represents an offset of about \$15,000.

There was discussion about maintenance costs, insurance costs, client service levels, and costs to client for services.

There was some discussion related to the challenges facing the industry as the island's population ages.

FirstStop MV

Ms. Fay provided a handout related to the program's operations, and stated that the funding levels are flat from the previous year.

Counseling, Outreach and Referral for Elders (CORE) Program

Ms. Fay presented the budget for the CORE program, and discussed staffing levels and funding requests.

Healthy Aging MV ("HAMV")

Ms. Fay and Ms. Moore discussed the program, and noted that the budget represents a significant increase (\$111,850, up from \$68,446 from the previous year) due to the need for a full-time manager (to replace the current part-time coordinator).

1 in 3 island residents are elderly, many are located in West Tisbury and Chilmark, and that the programs potential client base is rapidly growing.

Ms. Moore spoke in detail about HA-MV programs and services, including some small-project home improvement, falls prevention efforts; Home sharing, housing options, transportation, advanced care planning, and end-of-life planning.

It was noted that the \$223,150 "bottom-line" budget number is for the entire program, and that the specific warrant article would only be for the Town's share.

The benefit of the County as the single contracting agent for these services was reiterated.

Vineyard Health Care Access

Ms. Kuh described the service level as steady; providing services for applications and assistance for the state health-insurance program for about 4,000 individuals annually – or about 1 in 8 island residents. The change in budget request from FY20 to FY21 was noted.

Mr. Orcutt attested to the quality of the services provided.

Dukes County Social Services

Ms. Kuh described the history and need for services intended for younger islanders with higher social-service needs, such as utility assistance, food stamps, emergency cash assistance, disability, social security assistance, etc.

Ms. Kuh briefly described the different types of services provided.

Substance Use Prevention

Ms. Thornton spoke briefly about the program, noting that she anticipates expanding this coming year. Additional funding requested will help to offset anticipated cuts in funding from other sources (such as the United Way).

Other Services

Ms. Thornton briefly discussed other services provided. There was discussion about funding for local emergency shelter services, and how the program coordinates with other island agencies to avoid 'duplication' of services.

Review of Budget

Mr. Ruskin noted that the warrant articles submitted by the County would be taken up at a later meeting.

Ms. Martina Thornton handed out a draft / proposed budget for review, and reviewed some of the details; variables in the budget were noted: a \$7,000 placeholder for a Classification / Compensation study, an allocation of direct costs for the airport (\$125,000), and the "Cape and Island" license plate funding. These items are still under review, and subject to change.

REVIEW OF MINUTES

The minutes of January 7, 2020 were reviewed.

It was MOVED by Ruskin, SECONDED by Montrowl

To approve the minutes of January 7, 2020 as distributed.

VOTED: 5, 0, 0.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mr. Stone noted revisions in several line items in the proposed budget:

- Tri Town Ambulance: Decreased by \$36,000
- Up Island School District: Decreased by \$100,000
- MVRSD: Decrease by about \$25,000

Mr. Stone noted a number of other changes to the budget which might change certain numbers related to budget organization, but which do not constitute a significant change to the overall request.

Mr. Stone noted that the Town's health insurance costs will be reviewed in the near future, with any changes in costs to be noted.

Mr. Stone also noted that warrant articles were due by February 4, and handed out a draft list of "money" warrant articles. Article numbers are just in draft form.

Mr. Stone provided a projection for the FY21 tax levy, and estimated that a "Proposition 2 ½

override” may not be necessary for FY21.

Ms. Rand reminded the Finance Committee that a report is due for the 2019 Annual Town Report.

Ms. Rand noted that a final draft of the Warrant would be available towards the end of the following week (likely by February 13). The committee generally agreed that would be acceptable.

CORRESPONDENCE AND SCHEDULING

Mr. Ruskin apologized to the board in regard to the scheduling difficulties. Board members should expect to hear from Janice Haynes in regard to scheduling meetings.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for February 6, 2019, 5 PM, at Howes House, State Road, West Tisbury.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, it was MOVED Ruskin by, SECONDED by Dreeben

To Adjourn.

VOTED: 5, 0, 0.

The meeting was declared adjourned at 7:09 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas Finn

APPROVED BY A VOTE OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE AT A REGULAR MEETING:

Date of Vote: 2/13/20

Certified: Gregg Orcutt, Chair – verbal