Town of Oak Bluffs
Finance and Advisory Committee
Thursday, May 6, 2010, 3:30 PM
Oak Bluffs Library

Present: Chairs – Mimi Davisson, Bill McGrath, Steve Auerbach, Bob Blythe, Frank Case, Mike Perry, Mac Starks,
Others: Recorder – Marni Lipke
Town Staff Administrator – Michael Dutton
Absent: Cathy Goudy, Hans Von Steiger

* Late arrivals or early departures, noted solely to mark vote counts.

• The meeting was called to order at 3:32PM.
- The Finance Committee welcomed new member Bob Blythe who gave a brief history of his time on the Island, and his past work as a business owner and Air Force Reservist.
- Oak Bluffs Treasurer Paul Manzi – was ill but in good spirits and in touch with Town Administrator Michael Dutton several times a day.

OLD BUSINESS

• Approve Past Minutes

• BILL MCGRATH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 13, 2010 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES: STEVE AUERBACH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION – BOB BLYTHE – new member**.**
• BILL MCGRATH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 18, 2010 MINUTES: STEVE AUERBACH SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTION – BOB BLYTHE – new member, **FRANK CASE** due to absence**.**
• BILL MCGRATH MOVED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 8, 2010 MINUTES: MAC STARKS SECONDED: MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION – BOB BLYTHE – new member**.**

• Wrap up FY2011 Budget

• As a balanced Fiscal Year 2011 (FY11) Budget had been passed the Departments were dealing with its strictures.
• The viability of a budget relying on overrides was questioned, although it could be viewed in the context of a multi-year development.
• There seemed to be a resident disconnect on what services could be provided for the taxes it had voted – i.e. rejections of departmental overrides.

• Critique of Budget Process

• The FinCom members first considered the positive aspects of the process.
- There was strong unanimous commendation on the well attended, and well-publicized open meetings.
- There was strong unanimous commendation for Chair Mimi Davisson's leadership.

- The Budget stayed on track and was completed almost a month before Town Meeting, a great improvement on and contrast to previous years.
- Setting priorities for the Departments to follow (top down procedure), rather than asking the Departments what each needed (bottom up procedure), resulted in a more controlled and orderly routine, with less surprises.
- Relations with the schools were greatly improved (see below: Actions).

• Possible improvements and concerns were then discussed.

- The budget and warrant should be as available as possible as early as possible, to all citizens/residents, via internet, by mail (cost about $5,000) and at the library and Town Hall.
- Citizen trust in government was discussed not only locally but nationally, as well as whether the Town leadership had an accurate view of citizen mood.
- The public's right to know could be better balanced or broadened:
    - toward better awareness of governmental structure and pay grades – as opposed to over concern with specific salaries.
    - to post project funding sources at construction sites and on the Town website,
    - to better compare apples to apples and not to oranges.
- The FinCom would like improved communications with the Community Preservation Act (CPA) Committee (see 4/8/10 Minutes p. 3). The procedure to discontinue the CPA tax was noted for next year.
- The 5 or 6 large departments that made up the bulk of the budget could be more carefully parsed for a better idea of what could saved.
- At the end of the meeting there was a discussion on better management of the Annual Town Meeting.
- FinCom / Board of Selectmen collaboration, although improved, could be better. Bertter communication between governmental committees was needed (see below: Actions).
- The FinCom recommended that the Town Administration begin preparation for the FY12 budget immediately.
- Later in the meeting, the FinCom heard with satisfaction that failure of the Fire Department override was being addressed by the Personnel Board (see below: Actions).

• Recommendations to Selectmen re: Preparation for Next Year's Budgeting

• IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE OB FINCOM TO RECOMMEND THE SELECTMEN PURSUE THE FOLLOWING ISSUES.

• PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAXES (PILOT) – This was discussed in terms of various non-profits (especially in regards to the MV Hospital and Ambulance Fund).

• REFUSE – It was hoped a combination of restriction of downtown/harbor pick up and a sticker price of $5 would close the $140,000 gap (see 2/25/10 p. 3). The ramifications of an Islandwide trash transfer station was also mentioned (see 10/2/08 Minutes p. 2).

• PARKING – Various forms of parking fees were noted including for special events and reserved off-site parking for business staff. Increased police costs were also noted.

• ISLANDWIDE EVENTS – Licensing fees should reflect all costs.

• REGIONALIZATION – This should continue to be pursued.

• Issues were raised about the management of the municipal toilet facilities and the homeless population.

• Current Year (FY2010) Budget Status

• The Administration hoped to finish FY10 in the black, and end-of-the-year transfers would be presented for vote shortly.
• Contrary to general perception, Oak Bluffs was on excellent financial footing with a reasonable (if not ideal) stabilization balance.

NEW BUSINESS
• Elect Finance Committee Chair and Turn Over Leadership of Meeting

• MIKE PERRY MOVED TO ADJOURN before offices could be reconsidered.
• FRANK CASE NOMINATED MIMI DAVISSON TO REMAIN AS CHAIR; BOB BLYTHE SECONDED: Mimi Davisson thanked them for the honor but emphasized her belief in rotating offices to develop leadership. 'If nominated she would not accept and if elected she would move to Mexico.' Conflict of interest issues precluded town employees from being officers.
• FRANK CASE NOMINATED BILL MCGRATH AS CHAIR OF THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE; MAC STARKS SECONDED; BILL MCGRATH ACCEPTED NOTING HE WOULD BE CAREFUL IN REGARDS TO MARTHA'S VINEYARD PUBLIC SCHOOL ISSUES; ON THERE BEING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS THE VOTE WAS CALLED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

• Elect Other Finance Committee Officials

• Vice Chair
• MIMI DAVISSON NOMINATED MIKE PERRY AND STEVE AUERBACH TO BE CO-VICE CHAIRS; BILL MCGRATH SECONDED; MIKE PERRY AND STEVE AUERBACH ACCEPTED; ON THERE BEING NO FURTHER NOMINATIONS THE VOTE WAS CALLED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

• Personnel Board Representatives (2)
• ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED BOB BLYTHE WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPOINTED AND MIKE PERRY UNANIMOUSLY CONTINUED AS THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES TO THE PERSONNEL BOARD; 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

• Capital Planning Committee Representative
• ON A MOTION DULY MADE AND SECONDED MIMI DAVISSON WAS UNANIMOUSLY APPOINTED AS THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS. Steve Auerbach was the Moderator's representative to the Capital Planning Committee, and Mike Perry was the Board of Selectmen's representative.

• Meeting Schedule/Next Meeting

Meeting time was changed to 4:00PM on first and third Thursdays.
Summer and Fall meetings schedule was set as follows:
4:00PM Thursday, June 17th (see below: Actions),
4:00PM Thursday, July 15th,
4:00PM Thursdays, September 2nd, and 17th,
4:00PM Thursdays, October 7th, and 21st,
4:00PM Thursdays, November 4th, and 18th,
4:00PM Thursdays, December 2nd, and 16th,

• Next Meeting: **4:00PM** Thursday, June 17, 2010 at the Oak Bluffs Library.

• *ON A MOTION MADE BY MIMI DAVISSON AND DULY SECONDED THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:36PM.*

Action List:
• All – **bring goals/objectives to June meeting**.
• Bill McGrath – post new meeting schedule.
- Post Fincom agendas to Selectmen, MVPS Superintendent, OBSC Chair.
• Michael Dutton –circulate biweekly summary of committee actions to all committees.
• Michael Perry – draft chart so that budget worksheets only site employee grade/step.
- draft letter to Selectmen re: Fire Dept. compensation/classification study.
• Mimi Davisson – draft letter to Selectmen with FinCom recommendations.
• All – submit/file Mass. State Ethics certificates.

Ongoing Action List from previous meetings.
• All – please inform the Chair if you are unable to attend a meeting.
• Chair and Vice Chairs
- Remind Selectmen to of FinCom recommendations re: refuse, parking, PILOT, etc.
- keep up timely communications with FinCom members and Town Government.
- Inform the Selectmen in writing of all significant FinCom decisions.
• FinCom – continue to emphasize $2,000,000 Stabilization Fund goal.
• Inform Depts. - any item not in dept. budgets will not be recommended for free cash.
- update Capital Improvement Plan regularly.
• Regular meetings with Bd. of Selectmen and Personnel Board.

June 17th Agenda:
• Introduction of and welcome for new member
• Minutes: 5/6/10
• Next Year's Goals and Objectives

Future Agendas:
• Capital Program Com. Report (quarterly)
• Capital Program Com. Roles and Responsibilities
• New Website Report
• Ambulance Fund Report.
• Finance Dept. Reorganization

Documents on file:
• Agenda 5/6/10

• These Minutes approved as written by the Oak Bluffs FinCom 6/17/10.