

Town of Oak Bluffs
Finance and Advisory Committee
Thursday, January 24, 2019, 5:00 pm
Oak Bluffs Fire/EMS Building Second Floor Conference Room

Present: Chair – Bill Vrooman, Bernie Crossland, Bob Gaffey by phone,
Herbert Kiehn, Maura McGroarty, Ray Moreis, Mike Taus, Walter Vail*,
Absent: Richard Weiss,
Town: Selectman Mike Santoro, Harbormaster Todd Alexander,
Fire/EMS – John Rose, Sean Broadley, Matt Bradley, Manny Rose,
Others: Recorder - Marni Lipke * Late arrivals or early departures,
noted solely to mark vote counts.

- The Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) came to order at 5:04PM. *(Recorder's Note: Discussions have been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)*
- Throughout the meeting there was confusion on [discrepancies between all Departmental versus Accountant reports of Fiscal Year 2019 \(FY19\) budgeted and actual spending.](#)

• **2020 Marina Budget Review** (See Minutes: 12/20/18 & 1/10/18 & documents on file.)

- Salaries were up 1.5%.
- Repairs/Maintenance was increased just under \$2,000 and mostly covered boat, dock and piling repairs—each piling cost - \$3,000 and 4-5 were replaced in a year.
- Other Charges/Expenses was up \$1,100.
- [There was a repeating error which was clarified as two mooring attendants at 12 wk./yr. \(\\$6,000\) and one at 10 wk./yr. \(\\$5,000\).](#)
- Fuel revenue went into a revolving fund (see below: Actions).
- [The FinCom suggested that Harbormaster Todd Alexander consider requesting a \\$28,000 Warrant Article from the Waterways account to reduce taxpayer burden re: harbor management.](#) Waterways annual revenue was about \$47,000, which was usually used for larger projects such as dredging. Mr. Alexander was reluctant to spend it down.
- Last year Community Preservation Committee (CPC) funds helped repair bulkheads. Other large capital projects, requiring subsidies or grant funding included the jetties. The Harbor was in reasonable shape, the bulkheads strong, the docks stable and the Channel deep enough.
- Thanks were exchanged all around.

• **2020 Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Budget Review**

(See documents on file & 10/18/ Minutes 18 p. 1-3)

Emergency Management

- Boat Expenses referred to haulage and maintenance, and
- Other Charges to emergency shelter stores, which Chief John Rose waited as late as possible to replenish due to expiration date regulations.
- Although hesitant about defending his own raise (see 1/10/19 Minutes p.3 & below: Actions), Chief Rose explained that along with comparison with other ambulance chief salaries, responsibilities and certifications, since Police Chief Erik Blake had withdrawn he was now the sole Emergency Management supervisor, adding significantly to his duties:
 - managing shelter drills (3 per yr.), equipment, and stock,
 - attending monthly meetings, trainings, and updating plans.
- Later in the meeting Emergency Management history was reviewed from volunteer/stipend Peter Martell (see 1/10/08 Minutes p.2) through job sharing (without additional compensation) between the three Chiefs (Ambulance, Fire, Police).
- [IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE TO](#)

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PROPOSE THAT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR COMPENSATION BE A FLAT STIPEND. This stipend could be equal to or a portion of the current requested salary increase but not added to the base and easily shifted to follow the Emergency Management Director in case of staffing changes.

EMS/Ambulance

- This Budget was up 2% overall.
- Chief Rose's salary was split 50/50 between the Budget and the Ambulance Reserve Fund (see also above: Emergency Management).
- The FinCom proposed that the Chief's salary be partially logged in the Fire Dept. budget.
- Maura McGroarty noted that a Lieutenant's salary was also up 4.5%.
- To relieve Ambulance Reserve Fund pressure Chief Rose again requested (and Town Administrator Bob Whritenour again refused) moving a paramedic into the Budget.

Fire

- Keeping pace with other Island Departments, Captains, Lieutenants and firefighter stipends were raised \$300, and the Deputy and Assistant Chiefs were raised \$1,000.
- The Department was restructured as follows.
 - Fire truck staffing was reduced by attrition over a period of time from one captain and two lieutenants each to one captain and one lieutenant each. This was okayed in an open staff meeting and was possible due to narrower demographics.
 - For 16 weeks from June to September a weekend duty officer would answer non-emergency calls (cats in trees, smoke detectors, etc.). The FinCom discussed fines for repeat nuisance calls. This rarely happened, and was usually connected to commercial alarm system faults, and corrected by Department warnings and formal letters. Smoke alarms reduced fatalities and serious fires but increased Non- Related Incidents.
- The \$50,000 Training line was split between \$38,000 in Training and \$12,000 in Professional Technical to cover hiring consultants to train on Island.
 - Additional training and testing would likely be required by new Massachusetts Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations—vaccinations, respiratory tests, etc.
- Equipment updates and purchases were needed to protect Circuit Avenue and the Campgrounds.

Ambulance Reserve Fund

- Collective bargaining negotiations were still in process and pay had been level since the contract expired last year, so increases would be retroactive to 2018.
 - Summer Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs) received 1.5%.
- Martha's Vineyard Hospital (MVH) negotiations were also ongoing, postponing the hiring of any additional paramedics—recruitment was difficult.
- Difficulties and financial losses through Medicare/Medicaid, insurance and MVH discharges were reviewed (see 10/18/ Minutes 18 p. 1-3).
- Thanks were exchanged all around.

• Approve Minutes (1/10/19, 1/17/19)

• BERNIE CROSSLAND MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 10, 2019 MINUTES AS AMENDED FOR TYPOS; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 2 ABSTENTIONS—BOB GAFFEY, HERB KIEHN due to absence.

• WALTER VAIL MOVED TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 17, 2019 MINUTES AS AMENDED; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 8 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—BOB GAFFEY due to absence.

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• **Accountant's Comments** - None

• **Member Comments** (See below: Meetings/Events & Actions.)

- The FinCom discussed next week's agenda (Dukes County, social services, non-profits) in terms of consolidating administration costs, and the Tisbury FinCom meeting interviews (see documents on file).
- Walter Vail expressed frustration with the current Council On Aging (COA) administration which: lacked initiative, was difficult to deal with, not collaborative/active with related organizations. Some members noted the FinCom had wide leeway in recommending action, others felt this was beyond their purview.
- Maura McGroarty asked if the fully staff 18 officer police department included the Animal Control Officer (ACO) and Assistant.
- Maura McGroarty requested an exploration of possible [Payment In Lieu of Taxes \(PILOTs\) with the Assessors Office \(see below: Actions\)](#).
- New Short Term Rental tax revenue was briefly mentioned.

• **Public Comments** - None

• **Adjourn**

• **MIKE TAUS MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:42PM; BOB GAFFEY SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meetings/Events:

OB FinCom - 5:00PM, Thursdays, January 31, 2019 - OB Library

OB FinCom - 5:00PM, Thursdays, February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2019 - OB Library

OB FinCom - 5:00PM, Thursday, March 14, 2019 - OB Library

AIFC 5:00PM, Thursday, March 28, 2019

Special & Annual Town Meetings - Tuesday, April 9, 2019 - MVRHS PAC

Action List

- Bill - determine Emergency Management stipend and
- talk to Bob Whritenour re: Chief Rose's raise.
- Bill/Chief Rose/Wendy B. - explain Lieutenant 4.5% raise.
- Todd A./Deb P. - send FinCom report on last 5 yrs. of Harbor Fuel Account
- Bill - ask Chief Blake if 18 officers included the ACO & Assistant.

Ongoing Action List from previous meetings

• Future Agenda Items:

Police Department Finances	Trash/Waste Analysis
Parking Mitigation Follow-Up	Reserve Fund Increase
Town Cleaning Services Analysis	Assessor's Office re: PILOTs
Auditor Management Letter Update (January, March, June, September)	

Documents on file:

- Agenda 1/24/19
- Sign In Sheet 1/24/19
- * Fiscal Year 2020 Emergency Management Budget
- Fiscal Year 2020 Ambulance Budget
- Fiscal Year 2020 Fire Management Budget
- Fiscal Year 2020 Transport Budget from Revolving Fund

• **Minutes approved as amended by the OB FinCom 2/14/19.**