

**Town of Oak Bluffs
Finance and Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 5, 2020 5:00 pm
Oak Bluffs Library Conference Room**

Present: Acting Chair – Bob Gaffey, Bernie Crossland, Maura McGroarty,
Mike Taus*, Greg Thornton, Walter Vail, Richard Weiss*,

Absent: Sherry Countryman, Bill Vrooman,

Town: Town Administrator – Bob Whritenour,
Town Accountant – Deb Potter,

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 5:05pm.
(Recorder's Note: Discussions have been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

• **Approval of Minutes**

- **WALTER VAIL MOVED TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 27, 2020 MINUTES; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 0 NAYS, 3 ABSTENTIONS—BERNIE CROSSLAND, MIKE TAUS, RICHARD WEISS** due to absence.

• **Warrant Articles** (See documents on file.)

- There was a brief discussion on how to proceed.
- The FinCom tabled several articles because the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) lacked a quorum and could not make recommendations (see below: Actions).
- Some articles from the previous draft were eliminated or reduced for example:
 - grants covered municipal vehicle leases;
 - meeting room furniture withdrawn/postponed (CIP had no objections);
 - residential tuition shifted to Selectmen Other Budget line item.
- At various points in the meeting Free Cash levels were checked. It was certified at \$828,966 and the approval of all the Articles would leave a \$167,000 residual.
- The Town borrowing was in good shape and approval of all borrowing articles would not bring the Town to its limit.
- Town Accountant Deb Potter would check all account balances immediately before Town Meeting in order to report current figures on request.
- [The FinCom requested protocol be changed to include capital spending and/or warrant articles in Department budget reviews.](#)

Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant Articles

- **Article 1 – FY21 Town Budget (Raise & Appropriate) - Tabled**

- **Article 2 – \$50,000 Fire Inspection & \$15,000 Marina Repair Revolving Funds**

The Law required some types of revolving funds be voted annually.

- **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON FIRE INSPECTION AND MARINA REVOLVING FUNDS; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

**Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
March 5, 2020**

2

• Article 3 – \$80,000 Building/Separate Inspector Revolving Fund

This was a new fund to gather inspection fees (building, plumbing, electrical, gas, etc.).

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON BUILDING AND SEPARATE INSPECTION REVOLVING FUND; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Article 4 – \$35,000 Harbor Maintenance (Waterways)

This standard article was \$5,000 more than Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20).

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$35,000 FOR HARBOR MAINTENANCE; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Article 5 – \$55,000 Bathroom and Library Maintenance (Free Cash)

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$55,000 FOR LIBRARY AND KENNEBEC AVENUE BATHROOM BUILDING MAINTENANCE; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Article 6 – \$15,000 Senior Center Cabinets (Free Cash)

This project was on the CIP list and the two CIP members present recommended approval.

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$15,000 FOR SENIOR CENTER CABINETS; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Article 7 – \$50,000 Three-Year Lease of Highway Dump Truck (Free Cash)

The truck was necessary. Three leases were voted as articles and then transferred into the budget on a rotating basis—the other two were the sweeper and the rubbish truck.

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$32,000 FOR A THREE-YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT FOR A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT DUMP TRUCK; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Article 8 – \$32,000 Purchase of Shellfish Pickup Truck (Free Cash)

The Selectmen and Shellfish Committee prioritized Shellfish services, hiring a new Constable, creating an Assistant Constable and a part-time position, overhauling boats and equipment, increasing propagation and presence. The 3 staff worked simultaneously.

- This was a late-filed article and not on the CIP list. Other Departments took hard cuts.

- There only surplus Town vehicle was a non-functional SUV. Other towns might be asked. A cruiser or passenger vehicle was unsuitable for water-logged gear.

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$32,000 FOR A THREE-YEAR LEASE**

**Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
March 5, 2020**

3

AGREEMENT FOR A HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT DUMP TRUCK; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 2 NAYS—MAURA MCGROARTY, MIKE TAUS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

• Article 9 – \$25,000 Ocean Park Bandstand Maintenance (Free Cash)

The amount had been reduced and now covered some structural repairs and painting.

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$25,000 FOR OCEAN PARK BANDSTAND MAINTENANCE; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Article 10 – \$55,000 Oak Bluffs School (OBS) Carpet (Free Cash)

Principal Megan Farrell had thanked the FinCom for the funds during the Department interview. The amount was reduced due to other OBS-based funding.

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$55,000 FOR OAK BLUFFS SCHOOL CARPET REPLACEMENT; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTIONS—MIKE TAUS** due to appearance of conflict of interest.

• Article 11 – \$100,000 Reconditioning 2 Ambulances (Ambulance Reserve)

Heavily equipped ambulance “boxes” were expensive, however the vehicle chassis/engine were essentially trucks and could be replaced/reconditioned every 5 years (the first this spring, the second in October).

- The Town owned 4 ambulances: 1 spare, 1 for 911, 2 for off-Island transport.

- Martha's Vineyard Hospital (MVH) negotiations were still in the study stage—see 2/27/20 Minutes p.1). If the Article failed, transports would have to stop immediately.

◦ If negotiations were successful remuneration could be retroactive.

◦ If unsuccessful and OB ceased to run transports, the second reconditioning could be delayed and/or pulled.

- \$100,000 voted for the Fire-Emergency Medical Services (EMS) communications tower (see Minutes: 1/18/18 p.2 & 1/25/18 p.1 & 3/1/18 p.6) was replaced by Sheriff Dept. grants, so the funds should be returned to the Ambulance Reserve (by letter from Fire/EMS) to increase the current low balance.

- Maura McGroarty expressed some reluctance in voting.

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$100,000 FOR RECONDITIONING TWO AMBULANCES; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Article 12 – \$17,400 Police Low Speed Vehicle (Ferry Fees)

This mini-truck could be used for low-priority runs: traffic management, equipment hauling, citizen car battery jumps, etc. The Police Chief delayed the 3 cruiser replacement rotation (see 1/23/20 p.1) for a partial year. The Chief's electric car could be partially grant funded.

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$17,400 FOR A POLICE LOW SPEED VEHICLE; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION FAILED: 3 AYES—BOB GAFFEY, GREG THORNTON, WALTER VAIL, 4 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
March 5, 2020

4

- Article 13 – \$50,000 Unforeseen Wastewater Equipment Repairs/Other Breakdowns (Wastewater Retained Earnings)

Last year's pump malfunctions showed the need for reserve funds.

- **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$50,000 FOR WASTEWATER EQUIPMENT REPAIRS AND OTHER BREAKDOWNS; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

- Article 14 – \$40,000 Zoning Bylaw Review (Free Cash)

Reduced from \$80,000, this would start the comprehensive Bylaw update process by hiring a consultant to coordinate them the new Town Master Plan.

- Unclear Bylaws put the Town at a disadvantage when dealing with Developments of Regional Impact (DRIs) and the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC).

- **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$40,000 FOR ZONING BYLAW REVIEW; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—BERNIE CROSSLAND.**

- Article 15 – \$200,000 to Stabilization (Free Cash)

The amount had been reduced—(see also below Article 20 on Eminent Domain purchase).

- **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$200,000 TO STABILIZATION; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

- Article 16 – Town Hall Renovation (Raise & Appropriate) - Tabled

Cost had not been finalized.

- Article 17 – \$2,774,000 Streetscape Sidewalk and Infrastructure Repairs (Raise & Appropriate) - Tabled

This had been on the CIP list for years but had not been discussed.

- Article 18 – \$510,000 Park & Ride (Raise & Appropriate) - Tabled

A remote lot was previously planned with a Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) shuttle loop. The Selectmen and CIP planned /discussed it for some years—detailed design and cost analysis was available. (OBS Park & Ride expansion raised serious neighborhood objections.)

- Article 19 – \$75,000 to Real and Personal Property Revaluation & Software (Overlay Surplus)

The amount was comparable to past levels. The revaluation was State mandated.

- **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$200,000 TO STABILIZATION; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

- Article 20 – \$815,000 Eminent Domain Purchase of Uncas Avenue Lot (Raise & Appropriate) - Tabled

This was a new article on a valuable asset the Town should acquire. Eversource declared the lot surplus (behind Senior Center/across from Bowling Barn).

Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
March 5, 2020

5

- Eminent Domain gave authority to force the sale to the Town at the assessed price (Eversource assessed price was higher than Town's).
- A parking lot with meter/kiosks was planned within walking distance of Circuit Ave.
- Eversource reported toxic equipment removed, the lot cleaned and final inspection pending.
- The FinCom was reluctant to remove funds from Stabilization, although the withdrawal would not drop the Fund below the 5% minimum goal.
- [The FinCom requested the language be changed to include borrowing as a source, and public building as well as parking as a purpose.](#)
- [Article 21 – Community Preservation Act/Committee \(CPA/CPC\) Allocation \(CPC\)](#)
This was the CPC housekeeping article. The State match was higher than expected.
- **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ALLOCATION; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**
- [Article 22 – CPC Recommendations \(CPC\)](#)
 - 1) • **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON \$51,000 FOR COTTAGER'S CORNER WINDOW RESTORATION; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**
 - 2) • **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON \$3,500 FOR MARTHA'S VINEYARD AGRICULTURAL HALL PRESERVATION; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**
 - 3) The Preservation Trust owned the Union Chapel but not the pipe organ. Objections included Church/State issues.
 - **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON \$50,000 FOR UNION CHAPEL HISTORIC PIPE ORGAN RESTORATION; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 1 NAY—GREG THORNTON, 1 ABSTENTION—BOB GAFFEY.**
 - 4) • **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON \$49,500 FOR HARTFORD PARK RESTORATION; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAY—GREG THORNTON, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**
 - 5) The FinCom objected to this item's financial protocol. The CPC recommendation included one negative vote. Edgartown chose not to recommend the project. A house in Vineyard Haven had been purchased and renovated.

Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
March 5, 2020

6

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON \$125,000 FOR HARBOR HOMES; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION FAILED: 3 AYES, 3 NAYS—BERNIE CROSSLAND, MAURA MCGROARTY, GREG THORNTON, 1 ABSTENTION—MIKE TAUS.**

6) Landlords agreed to rent year-round at affordable rates and the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority (DCRHA) subsidized up to half the rent for income eligible tenants (80% Average Median Income (AMI)—family of four - \$75,000, individual - \$52,000).

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON \$126,000 FOR RENTAL ASSISTANCE; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

7) Preserving Affordability Through Loan Support (PALS) was also funded by State and Federal grants. The FinCom suggested Cape Light Compact grants.

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON \$165,200 FOR PALS; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

8) This was the final installment of \$600,000 (see Minutes 2/15/18 p.2 & 3/1/18 p.8 & 2/28/19 p.6). The project had been put out to bid, responses were within estimates and construction was projected to start this spring. The work should also remediate road flooding in the area.

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION ON \$200,000 FOR SUNSET LAKE; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Article 23 – \$70,796.43 Regional Emergency Communications (Raise & Appropriate)

- Town Administrator Bob Whritenour strongly negotiated a compromise in the allocation formula at 50% flat fee (which penalized the smaller towns) and 50% call volume.

- The project included a Motorola maintenance contract and other non-grant-eligible requirements (see 3/7/19 p.1-2).

- The FinCom continued its objections to the call volume inclusion in the allocation formula in view of the many regional entities within the Township. Maura McGroarty was disappointed that Sheriff's Dept. assurances for further adjustments had not materialized.

- The allocation was changed in keeping with the Sheriff's statement (see documents on file).

- Mr. Whritenour advised against a negative recommendation on public safety matters.

- During a more general discussion on regional formulas, Mr. Whritenour advised that short of a Unified Tax Rate (see 2/23/17 Minutes p.1), 21% was a workable OB proportion—down from the current 28-29%.

Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
March 5, 2020

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON **DUKES COUNTY REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AS AMENDED TO \$65,371.30**; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 1 NAY—MAURA MCGROARTY, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Article 24 – \$87,499 Social Services (Raise & Appropriate)

- These were mostly level funded with the exception of:

- Healthy Aging Martha's Vineyard (HAMV) hiring a Director under Martha's Vineyard Community Services (MVCS), and
- Martha's Vineyard Youth Task Force (MV YTF).

- Walter Vail advocated for the services which were much needed and of good quality, particularly MV YTF addressing youth issues. Counseling Outreach and Referral for Elders (CORE) was administered out of all Town Councils on Aging (COAs) except OB.

- The FinCom revisited the proliferation of Island non-profits and recommended level funding (at FY20 levels).

• **GREG THORNTON MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON **SOCIAL SERVICES AS AMENDED TO \$78,797**; WALTER VAIL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Article 25 – \$8,796 Dukes County Budget Shortfall (Raise & Appropriate)

- The FinCom was unimpressed with the mechanism of returning funds and then requesting them, nor with the change from “5% grant administration fee” to “budget shortfall” (see 12/19/19 Minutes p.2).

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON **\$8,796 FOR DUKES COUNTY BUDGET SHORTFALL**; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION FAILED UNANIMOUSLY: 0 AYES, 7 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Article 26 – \$7,389 Dukes County Stabilization Fund (Raise & Appropriate)

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON **\$7,389 FOR DUKES COUNTY STABILIZATION FUND**; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION FAILED UNANIMOUSLY: 0 AYES, 7 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Article 27 – \$21,630 Adult Community Education Martha's Vineyard (ACE MV) (Raise & Appropriate)

- This was stated as level funded but the FinCom had voted a lower OB amount for FY20.

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON **ADULT COMMUNITY EDUCATION MARTHA'S VINEYARD AS AMENDED TO \$14,796**; GREG THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 5 AYES, 1 NAY—RICHARD WEISS, 1 ABSTENTION—MIKE TAUS.**

Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
March 5, 2020

8

• Article 28 – \$28,316 Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) Dust Collection (Raise & Appropriate)

- Issues were:

- consistent action to force capital assessment formula reform;
- MVRHS hard work on lowering the budget and reducing capital spending;
- loss of matching grant funding;
- replacement or new equipment and need.

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$28,316 FOR A MVRHS DUST COLLECTION SYSTEM; GREG THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION FAILED: 2 AYES—MAURA MCGROARTY, WALTER VAIL, 4 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION—MIKE TAUS.**

• Article 29 – Elected Official Compensation

The Board of Assessors were not elected.

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE ANNUAL MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON SOCIAL SERVICES AS AMENDED TO ELIMINATE THE BOARD OF ASSESSORS; MIKE TAUS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• The remaining articles were briefly reviewed including petition articles on a leash law, litigation (not legally admissible), and withdrawal from the Martha's Vineyard Landbank.

Special Town Meeting (STM) Warrant Articles

• Article 1 – \$100,000 Interest on Long Term Debt (Free Cash & Premium on Bond)

- The first payment on the OBS Roof-Heating/Ventilation/Air Conditioning (HVAC) bond was unexpectedly due in FY20. Mr. Whritenour recommended amending the sources to reduce the draw on certified Free Cash.

- The FinCom Reserve Fund balance was \$149,500.

• **GREG THORNTON MOVED TO TRANSFER \$49,977 FROM THE RESERVE FUND TO THE INTEREST ON LONG TERM DEBT ACCOUNT; BERNIE CROSSLAND SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 1 NAY—MAURA MCGROARTY, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• **GREG THORNTON MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$100,000 FOR LONG TERM DEBT INTEREST AS AMENDED:**

- **\$49,977 FROM FREE CASH,**

- **\$49,977 FROM FINANCE COMMITTEE RESERVE FUND,**

- **\$43,021 FROM PREMIUM ON BOND ACCOUNT;**

WALTER VAIL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 1 NAY—MAURA MCGROARTY, 0 ABSTENTIONS.

• Article 2 – Disposition of Abandoned Funds (Tailings)

The Article was in keeping with Town Financial Policy.

Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
March 5, 2020

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON THE DISPOSITION OF ABANDONED FUNDS; GREG THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Article 3 – \$40,000 Recruitment and Retention of Police Officers (Free Cash)

The Town lost a recruit to another Town that paid Police Academy and uniform expenses.

- Maura McGroarty objected to including language on retention.

- It was not considered a yearly Police budget item.

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$40,000 FOR THE RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION OF FULL TIME POLICE OFFICERS; GREG THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 4 AYES, 1 NAY—GREG THORNTON, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• Article 4 – \$50,000 Worker’s Compensation Settlements (Free Cash)

The Town continued to work at settling four long-term Worker’s Comp commitments.

• **WALTER VAIL MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE ON \$50,000 FOR WORKER’S COMPENSATION SETTLEMENTS; GREG THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 5 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

• The FY21 Town Budget delta from:

- reductions voted above, as well as savings from level health insurance rates (see Minutes: 1/23/20 p.2 & 2/6/20 p.2), and

- moving the residential tuition into the budget, could be dedicated to Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB).

• Accountant’s Comments - None

• Public Comments - None

• Member Comments - None

• **Adjourn**

• **BERNIE CROSLAND MOVED TO ADJOURN THE FINANCE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING AT 7:58PM; GREG THORNTON SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meetings/Events:

OB FinCom - 5:00PM, Thursday, March 12, 2020 - OB Library

OB FinCom - 5:00PM, Thursday, March 19, 2020 - OB Library

OB FinCom Budget recommendation deadline March 20, 2020

OB FinCom - 5:00PM, Thursday, April 2, 2020 - OB Library

Special & Annual Town Meeting – 7:00PM, Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Town Election – Thursday, April 16, 2020

OB FinCom - 5:00PM, Thursday, April 23, 2020 - OB Library

continued >

**Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
March 5, 2020**

10

Action List

- Greg – organize conference phone for 3/12/20 meeting.
- Bob Whritenour – Warrant typos/changes
 - unless the CIP meets, eliminate all language on CIP recommendation
 - ATM #1 – Town Budget \$1,392,694.701 eliminate the 3rd decimal
 - ATM #10 – OBS carpet \$55,000 written number is different.
 - ATM #20 – Eminent Domain purchase – include borrowing & public building.
 - ATM #23 – DC Emergency Communications amend amount to \$65,371.30
 - ATM #24 – Social Services amend amount to \$78,797
 - ATM #27 – ACE MV amend amount to \$14,796
 - ATM #29 – Elected Officials change date to 2020, eliminate Assessors (not elected)
 - ATM #35 & #36 are identical
 - STM #1 amend amount/sources: Reserve \$49,977, Free Cash \$49,977, Premium Bond \$43,021
- Articles tabled for future votes:
 - Town Budget (#1)
 - Town Hall (#16)
 - Streetscape (#17)
 - Park & Ride (#18)
 - Eminent Domain Lot Purchase (#20)

Ongoing Action List from previous meetings

- Bob G. – keep Greg informed of all meeting issues.
- Future Agenda Items:

Trash/Waste Analysis	Reserve Fund Increase
Town Cleaning Services Analysis	Embarkation Fund Policy

Documents on file:

- Agenda 3/5/20
- Sign In Sheet 3/5/20
- Coop. Agreement for Emergency Communications & Dispatch Services
- Draft Warrant for Annual Town Meeting, Commonwealth of Massachusetts (31 p.)
- Draft Warrant for Special Town Meeting, Commonwealth of Massachusetts (3 p.)
- Potter cover email re: Amb-Fire Reports 3/2/20 (2 p.) 7 attachments (2 formats) (37 p.)

• Minutes approved as amended by the OB FinCom 3/12/20