

**Town of Oak Bluffs**  
**Finance and Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, March 14, 2019, 5:00 pm**  
**Oak Bluffs Library Second Floor Conference Room**

Present: Chair – Bill Vrooman, Bernie Crossland, Bob Gaffey by phone,  
Herbert Kiehn, Maura McGroarty, Mike Taus, Richard Weiss,

Absent: Ray Moreis, Walter Vail,

Town: Town Administrator – Bob Whritenour,  
Town Accountant – Deb Potter,  
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 5:14PM. As Bob Gaffey joined the meeting by phone, all votes would be roll call.  
(Recorder's Note: Discussions have been summarized and grouped for clarity and brevity.)

**• Approve Minutes (3/7/19)**

**• HERB KIEHN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MARCH 7, 2019 MINUTES AS AMENDED FOR TYPOS; WALTER VAIL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 6 AYES, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION: MAURA MCGROARTY—AYE, HERB KIEHN—AYE, MIKE TAUS—AYE, BERNIE CROSSLAND—AYE, RICHARD WEISS—AYE, BILL VROOMAN—AYE, BOB GAFFEY—ABSTAIN** due to absence.

**• Regional Emergency System Warrant**

**• ATM Article #26 – \$56,518.27 Dukes County Regional Emergency Communication Center** (See documents on file & 3/7/19 Minutes p.1-2 & below: Actions.)

The FinCom considered amending the article in line with those of other Towns with the addition of “agreed upon adjusted share negotiated by the Towns’ representatives”. The discussion covered:

- deleting or including the additional line which was interpreted to allow a sub-agreement;
- Selectmen objections re: removing calls from Islandwide not-for-profits from the call volume formula and Towns’ assessment set by the Fiscal Advisory/Oversight Committee;
- Selectmen authority over the warrant, which set the original language;
- formalizing FinCom objections in written comments;
- vote not to recommend to force re-negotiations before Annual Town Meeting (ATM);
- mechanism to amend on ATM floor pending re-negotiated amount and/or preferred language.

**• MIKE TAUS MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE #26 FOR \$56,518.27 FOR THE OAK BLUFFS SHARE OF THE DUKES COUNTY REGIONAL EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT COSTS; BOB GAFFEY AND RICHARD WEISS SECONDED; MOTION FAILED UNANIMOUSLY: 0 AYES, 7 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MAURA MCGROARTY—NAY, HERB KIEHN— NAY, MIKE TAUS— NAY, BERNIE CROSSLAND— NAY, RICHARD WEISS— NAY, BILL VROOMAN— NAY, BOB GAFFEY— NAY.**

**• Article – \$125,000 Fire Truck Renovation (Ambulance Fund) – Withdrawn**  
(See 3/7/19 Minutes p.2)

**Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee**  
**March 14, 2019**

2

• ATM Article #14 – \$94,000 Public Safety Vehicles (Ambulance Fund)  
(See 2/28/19 Minutes p.4 #14.)

The Selectmen did not approve the Fire Truck article and shifted the public safety vehicles from Free Cash to the Ambulance Reserve. The FinCom reviewed the issues around the decreasing Ambulance Reserve fund balance (shift of workmen's comp costs, boat fees, and dropping revenue—see 10/18/18 Minutes p.1-3); and joined with other Town officials in demanding top priority to rectify the situation.

• The discussion focused on whether to shift the residual \$94,000 in Free Cash to the Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) line.

- It would require raising a Town Budget Line Item on ATM floor a complex and legally discouraged procedure, as well as a risky precedent.

- The Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG) received a substantial Medicare Retiree Drug Prescriptions rebate (OB share - \$116,000) that could be applied to FY19 health insurance to create a surplus.

- If left in Free Cash it could be re-appropriated at a fall Special Town Meeting (STM).

• **BOB GAFFEY MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE #14, AS AMENDED BY THE SELECTMEN FOR \$94,000 FOR PUBLIC SAFETY VEHICLES; RICHARD WEISS SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: 7 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MAURA MCGROARTY—AYE, HERB KIEHN—AYE, MIKE TAUS—AYE, BERNIE CROSSLAND—AYE, RICHARD WEISS—AYE, BILL VROOMAN—AYE, BOB GAFFEY—AYE.**

• Article #25 – \$14,100 Dukes County OPEB Trust Contribution (Free Cash)  
(see Minutes: 1/31/19 p.2 & 2/28/19 p.7 #25)

The County share of the CCMHG Medicare Prescription rebate was \$34,951, which they had applied to OPEB. The Towns had suggested the re-application but intended it be used to reduce the article, not in addition to it. The FinCom debated:

- lowering the amount on ATM floor;

- approving or penalizing a responsible action;

- County Advisory Board (CAB) practice of returning budget surpluses to the Towns.

• **RICHARD WEISS MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECONSIDER ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE #25, \$14,100 FOR DUKES COUNTY OPEB TRUST CONTRIBUTION; HERB KIEHN SECONDED; MOTION FAILED UNANIMOUSLY: 0 AYES, 7 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MAURA MCGROARTY—NAY, HERB KIEHN—NAY, MIKE TAUS—NAY, BERNIE CROSSLAND—NAY, RICHARD WEISS—NAY, BILL VROOMAN—NAY, BOB GAFFEY—NAY.** The original recommendation stands.

• ATM Article #27 – \$292,723 MVRHS Feasibility Study (Raise & Appropriate)  
(See Minutes: 2/7/19 p.3 & 2/28/19 p.8 #27.)

This article was substantially amended due to Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) new Excess and Deficiency (E & D) procedures requiring Town approval. Amendment highlights were:

- vote to approve transfer of - \$316,000 from E&D:

- which if approved would lower the Town share from \$376,040 to \$292,723;

- significant language conditioned on ballot, E&D appropriation and other Town approvals.

The previous FinCom vote was based on revising the capital assessment formula to be equally shared rather than by present enrollment.

**Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee  
March 14, 2019**

3

• **BOB GAFFEY MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE COMMITTEE RECOMMEND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT ARTICLE #27, FOR \$292,723 THE OAK BLUFFS SHARE OF A MARTHA'S VINEYARD REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL FEASIBILITY STUDY; RICHARD WEISS SECONDED; MOTION FAILED: 2 AYES, 4 NAYS, 1 ABSTENTION; MAURA MCGROARTY—AYE, HERB KIEHN— AYE, MIKE TAUS— ABSTAIN (conflict of interest), BERNIE CROSSLAND— NAY, RICHARD WEISS— NAY, BILL VROOMAN— NAY, BOB GAFFEY— NAY.**

• **Accountant's Comments** – None

• **Member Comments**

Maura McGroarty requested an updated debt schedule.

• **Public Comments** – None

• **Adjourn**

• **MIKE TAUS MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 6:23PM; WALTER VAIL SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY: HERB KIEHN—AYE, MAURA MCGROARTY—AYE, MIKE TAUS—AYE, BERNIE CROSSLAND —AYE, RICHARD WEISS—ABSTAIN, BILL VROOMAN—AYE, BOB GAFFEY—AYE.**

**Meetings/Events:**

**AIBOS/AIFC - 7:00PM, Thursday, March 21, 2019 MVRHSC LCR  
Special & Annual Town Meetings - Tuesday, April 9, 2019 - MVRHS PAC**

**Action List**

- Warrant Articles –
  - ATM #26 – Sheriff corrected amount is \$54,720.45
- Bill V. – draft & send comments on Regional Emergency Communications article.
- Bill V./Bob – draft written amendment on preferred Sheriff language for ATM floor
- Bob W. – send FinCom projected debt schedule.
- May Agenda Items: Minutes Format

**Ongoing Action List from previous meetings (cont.)**

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

**Documents on file:**

- Agenda 3/14/19
- Sign In Sheet 3/14/19
- Vrooman/McGroarty/Graczykowski email re: Call information (3 p.) 3/14/19
- Finance Committee's Responses to Warrant Articles Draft & cover email (2 p.) 3/14/19
- Warrant for Annual Town Meeting Commonwealth of Massachusetts (35 p.) 3/14/19
- Article 26. To See if the Town of Oak Bluffs will raise and appropriate or transfer...

• **Minutes approved by the OB FinCom 4/25/19.**