

**Town of Oak Bluffs**  
**Finance and Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, July 18, 2019, 5:00pm**  
**Oak Bluffs Library Second Floor Conference Room**

Present: Bill Vrooman - chairman, Bob Gaffey, Richard Weiss, Bernadette Crossland, Maura McGroarty, Sherry Countryman, Greg Thornton.

Absent: Mike Taus; Walter Vail.

Others: Peter Palches, former Fin Com member / OB resident

- The Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom) came to order at 5:02 pm.

- **MVRHS Regional Agreement Formulas**

Review of All Island Finance Committee meeting on July 10th.

Mark Freedman from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School gave a presentation. Mr. Vrooman gave the committee members each a copy of Mr. Freedman's 2020 MVRHS budget breakdown. Mr. Vrooman also presented his plan at the AIFC meeting and was pleasantly surprised at the reaction. The committee hopes that Edgartown will entertain the next meeting. The committee asked Mr. Vrooman to reach out to the other town Finance Committee chairs before the next meeting.

Discussion on the seven formula options that Mr. Vrooman handed out to committee members.. The 50/50 proposition was suggested to be the best deal for Oak Bluffs, but might have trouble passing by the other towns. The committee discussed giving more thought to finding a middle ground option. Mr. Gaffey suggested that once the committee agrees on a formula, there also needs to be an agreement that the new percentages are the ones that will be used for any capital outlay in the interim. The committee agreed unanimously. There were 3 options that were zeroed in on and general agreement on some concoction or variations of all three (equalized value with reimbursement for town expenses, 50/50, and Bill's proposal).

There was also a conversation about the non profits surrounding the high school, including MVCS, MV Arena, YMCA, Sharks, and the skate park. Ms McGroarty referred to a lease between the High School and MVCS for 99 years for just \$10/year in rent. The High School budget has gone up well beyond the 2.5% budget on a regular basis, yet demands for money from the town keeps increasing. The committee agreed that the high school should charge fair rent to these non profits to alleviate some of the pressure from the town.

- **Public Comments**

Mr. Palches expressed his support for a unified tax rate.

- **Adjourn**

Mr. Gaffey moved to adjourn at 6:12 pm; Ms. Countryman seconded; Motion passed unanimously.

**Meetings/Events:**

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 1st at 5:00pm.

**Action List:**

Mr. Vrooman will reach out to other town Finance committee chairs.

**Documents on file:**

- Agenda 7/18/19
- Sign in Sheet 7/18/19
- Breakdown of '20 High School Budget based on Mark Friedman's presentation
- 7 Formula options