

**Town of Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee**  
**Thursday, January 20, 2022, 5:00 pm**  
**Via Zoom Conference**

Present: Chair –**Bob Gaffey, Dion Alley, Sherry Countryman, Maura McGroarty, Mike Taus, Walter Vail, Bill Vrooman, Richard Weiss.**

Absent: **Bernie Crossland.**

Others: Debra Alley - Recorder. Deborah Potter - Town Administrator. Allyson Malik - Library Director. Martina Thornton - Dukes County Manager, Beth Folcarelli – CEO MV Community Services. Cindy Trish – Director Healthy Aging MV. Leslie Clapp – MV Center 4 living. Karen Tewhey – Harbor Homes. Sarah Kuh – Vineyard Health Care Access. Larkin Stallings, Chip Coblyn. Victor Capoccia.

**5:01 pm** The Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee came to order.

Review minutes from January 13, 2022, meeting. Mr. Vrooman moved the minutes be approved, seconded by Mr. Vail.

Sherry Countryman – Aye, Bob Gaffey – Aye, Walter Vail – Aye, Richard Weiss – Aye, Dion Alley – Aye, Bob Gaffey – Aye. (6- Aye)

**Review FY23 Budget Submissions**

○ **Library**

Allyson Malik made a presentation. – attached. 7 Full time staff and 4 part-time employees.

FY22 library budget \$594,814 (includes the actual personnel salaries and equity changes) FY23 increased to \$597,980 up 0.53%

Mr. Gaffey asked about potential increases/changes in the technology plan in future years. Ms. Malik replied she is working with Sherwood Ives and will have a robust 5-year plan in the future. The technology budget is not within the library budget – under the IT budget.

**5.20** Allyson Malik left the meeting.

Mr. Alley asked about the building maintenance. Deborah Potter advised all facilities maintenance gets captured under the public facilities maintenance in the Highway Department budget.

○ **County/VHCAP/Center for Living**

Beth Folcarelli, CEO, *MV Community Services.*

*First Stop* FY23 request \$9316. (\$2,005 Oak Bluffs)

*Counselling Outreach and Referral for Elders.* (CORE) FY23 request \$101,741. (\$21,892 Oak Bluffs)

Cindy Trish – Director. *Healthy Aging MV.* FY23 request \$106,452. (\$22,906 Oak Bluffs)

*SUD Coalition*– Victor Capoccia, Chip Coblyn & Larkin Stalling. FY23 request \$49,920. (\$10,742 Oak Bluffs)

5:35 Mr. Vail commented that he has a conflict of interest as he sits on the board of community services.

Mr. Gaffey asked Ms. Folcarelli about the position at the SUD coalition, it had previously been paid for by fundraising, and the amount they are asking for is a stop gap for two to three years. They have applied for federal funding to cover this position but not until after second year. Victor Capoccia said they will work with a firm sunset at three years.

Ms McGroarty commented the Community services assesses a 12% administrative fee and then the subcommittee (Harbor Homes) has a further administrative fee of 5%.

Mr. Taus would like to see a chart to see who administratively is taking care of what departments/ enterprises.

Ms McGroarty noted Town of Oak Bluffs is also funding "Council on Aging"; some of these services overlap with programs that Dukes County oversees and is seeking funds for. If you could go lean on the administration and heavy on the direct services, it is easier to allocate funds.

**Leslie Clapp – *MV Centre for Living***

FY23 request \$510,170 (\$109,776 Oak Bluffs) Level Funded

Serve 23 families, can take 10 -15 people a day. Goal is to increase the number of people in the coming months. Fee for service is \$60/day full day (6 Hours). The organization need to find a way to provide more transportation, VTA has previously done transportation, they will not be able to provide increased services. Looking to find a way outside of the budget to cover transportation to get people to shopping, doctors' appointments.

Mr. Vrooman asked about the salary line – it has gone up 44% for 4 employees. Ms. Clapp said yes - hours have increased, they have added a position.

Mr. Vail comment about elderly population on the island; aging population is growing tremendously. It is going to be an increase in budgets in the future. Ms Clapp said they have seen a significant request for increase in services.

Ms Trish said 1 in 3 of the Oak Bluffs residents are over 65 years of age.

Ms. McGroarty asked 10 employees, only 3 have health insurance? Ms. Clapp said most of the employees are covered by a spouse or family member or are on Medicare.

**Karen Tewhey – *Harbor Homes* (Homelessness Prevention)**

FY23 request \$57,284 (\$12,326 Oak Bluffs)

Last year 120 referrals. Full time position based on Martha's Vineyard. \$25/hr. FY23 4% increase \$26/hr.

Harbor Home was asked by Dukes County to house, supervise, and train this person. Harbor Homes is requesting 5% administrative costs to cover payroll, supervision, training space and utilities.

Ms Countryman asked about the one hundred referrals per year. How many homeless do we think there are on the island. Ms. Tewhey said over the course of the year there would be one hundred people or families who are facing homelessness. There is an underreported number of families who are living in substandard or illegal conditions.

There is a fear of coming forward in case of social services become involved.

**Sarah Kuh – *Vineyard Health Care Access Program***

FY23 request \$430,895 (\$92,718 Oak Bluffs)

Bureaucracy navigators for health care for one in eight people on Martha's Vineyard.

Mr. Vrooman asked about the increase in the budget. Ms Kuh said that for the first time they must contribute to OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) \$4000.

Mr. Vrooman asked about their OPEB liability? Martina Thornton will find this number for the committee.

The OPEB directive came from the Commissioners. The Health care access liability – \$278,000

**Martina Thornton** *Allocation of Overhead*

FY23 request \$65,085 (\$14,005 Oak Bluffs)

Administrative fee for Dukes County for collection of money from the Towns, Reimbursement, social services.

*DC Social Services*

FY23 request \$51,127 (\$11,001 Oak Bluffs)

Dukes Country Social Services – food stamps, unemployment assistance, bus passes.

Mr. Vrooman asked about funding lost. Budget is going down by \$4000 but the Town request is going from \$44,000 up to \$51,000. Request was for \$54,000 but it came in late and Oak Bluffs was not able to make the adjustment.

Deborah Potter said she felt Dukes County was embedding additional charges, it was a duplicitous charge, the Towns were being charged twice. Ms Thornton said they cannot increase the assessment by more than 2.5% per year, cannot charge the amount they need, and this is the way County can be made whole.

Deborah Potter said the County was circumventing the 2.5% proposition by doing it through an application. The Town is being charged for the same services twice, it is not transparent.

Mr. Alley asked has this practice been approved by Dukes County Commissioner. Ms Thornton said yes, the County commissioner wanted to put it in each of the programs because it is a charge associated with each program.

However, the Advisory Board said it should put it as a separate warrant article, so it is more visible.

**6:48** Dukes County left the meeting.

**Other Business**

Mr. Gaffey advised he has spoken to Chairperson Packish, Mr. D'Andrea was speaking to MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Association) representative Jack McCarthy. Ms. Countryman said Mr. D'Andrea wanted the Towns to sign onto a letter to support the school building feasibility study.

This item will be on the Select Board Meeting January 25, 2022 @ 4:30. Mac Anderson the Assessor is putting a presentation together which will show the impact to all towns.

**Adjourn: 7:03** Walter Vail motioned to adjourn the Finance and Advisory Committee Meeting seconded Mr. Vrooman.

Sherry Countryman – Aye, Bill Vrooman – Aye, Richard Weiss – Aye, Dion Alley – Aye, Maura McGroarty – Aye, Walter Vail. – Aye, Bob Gaffey – Aye.

**Meetings/Events:**

Oak Bluffs Finance Committee – 5:00 PM Thursday, January 27, 2022

**Documents on file**

Budget Calendar Fiscal Year 2023

FY23 Budget

Respectfully submitted by Debra Alley, Office Administrator