

Town of Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
Thursday, February 3, 2022, 5:00 pm
Via Zoom Conference

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

Absent:

Others: Deborah Potter - Town Administrator / Town Accountant. Debra Alley - Recorder.

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

Review minutes from January 27, 2022, meeting. Mr. Vail moved the minutes be approved with the corrections made by Ms. McGroarty seconded by Mr. Alley.

Maura McGroarty – Aye, Dion Alley – Aye, Walter Vail – Aye, Crossland -Aye, Bob Gaffey – Aye, Sherry Countryman – Abstain, Mike Taus – Abstain, (5 - Aye, 2 - Abstain).

Review FY23 Budget Submissions

Deborah Potter presented the draft budget and highlighted points in the budget synopsis. This was for presentation and discussion purposes – no vote being taken today on budget line items.

Better than expected revenue projections – due to a much larger amount from the State allocations - Cherry sheet allocations \$300,000 addition from the Governor’s Budget.

\$97,000 reduction in Regional High School Budget

Cape Cod Municipal Health Group voted for a 3% increase – had a 7.5% placeholder.

5:33 pm– Bill Vrooman joined the meeting

Discussion

Is the Town under any legal obligation to include the two Social Service (Govt Support) line items in the budget; can these be moved to special warrant articles?

If we have a balanced budget; are we within prop 2.5% Deborah Potter - yes, we are.

Do we need to keep \$75,000 in reserve fund under the Finance Committee budget? Deborah Potter would prefer to keep the amount of \$75,000 and not reduce it.

Does the Finance Committee have any input on the High School Budget? Oak Bluffs has two representatives (Catherine and Chris) on the school committee who can advocate on behalf of the Town; but Oak Bluffs is one of six Towns. Is there any recourse for the Town on how the school presents their budget? Is there a mechanism in place for where the MVRHS presents a budget that does not stay within the recommended parameters such as 2.5%. Is there any way to question the legalities to how the MVRHS is presenting the budget with capital items imbedded in the operating budget?

The MVRHS comes to the Towns and Fin Comm with an already ‘certified budget’. The finance committee need to work ahead with the school representatives before school budgets are certified.

Why does Dukes County need to handle the administration for the community services? The Town is paying administration fees on top of administration fees. The overhead allocation leads to a duplication of costs because the Town is already paying them for an assessment.

Is it possible to have only “assessments” in the budget; other “asks” should be special warrant articles for the town people to vote on.

Other Business

Deborah Potter said this is the very first draft of the budget; it will go to the Select Board and then back to the Finance Committee. Deborah Potter will attempt to have final budget back to Finance Committee prior to February 17th for committee to review. Finance Committee have three meetings prior to the Select Board vote on the budget March 8th.

Adjourn: 6.:35 Mike Taus motioned to adjourn the Finance and Advisory Committee Meeting seconded Mr. Vail.

Sherry Countryman - Aye, Bernie Crossland - Aye, Dion Alley - Aye, Walter Vail -Aye, Richard Weiss - Aye, Mike Taus - Aye, Bill Vrooman - Aye, Bob Gaffey -Aye. (8 – Aye).

Meetings/Events:

Oak Bluffs Finance Committee – 5:00 PM Thursday, February 17, 2022

Documents on file

Updated - Draft FY23 Budget

Town Administrator – Budget Synopsis

Respectfully submitted

Debra Alley, Office Administrator