

Town of Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 1, 2023, 5:00pm
OB Town Hall Meeting Room/Zoom Conference

Present: Chair – Sherry Countryman, Maura McGroarty, Richard Weiss, Mike Taus, Bob Malecki, Ryan Ruley*, Reuben Fitzgerald*

Absent: Mimi Davisson, Sean DeBettencourt

Others: Deborah Potter, Wendy Brough, Emma Green-Beach, Dion Alley, Jason Balboni, Tom Hallahan

Recorder: Juliet Mulinare

5:00pm Ms. Countryman called the Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee meeting to order. This is a joint meeting with the Selectboard. Selectboard meeting minutes will indicate the votes taken by the Selectboard.

Announcements

Ms. Countryman stated that the next meeting will be on June 15th; she has spoken with County Commissioner Doug Ruskin about streamlining the social services budget requests.

Discussion with Selectboard

- Introduction:
Ms. Countryman stated that she wants the Selectboard to be aware of what the FinCom is doing and what the plans are for the future. She informed the members of the Selectboard that the FinCom has generated a list of goals for various issues, including generating more revenue for the town and public outreach.
- FinCom Recommendations Post FY24 Budget Process:
The Committee has also put together a list of recommendations for the FY24 budget season to make it more efficient.

*Mr. Fitzgerald arrives to the meeting.

Ms. Countryman reviewed the list of recommendations with the Selectboard members, including a review of the stipends offered to various Committee members, transitioning the town away from funding the information kiosk, fireworks and holiday lights, and possibly consolidating programming within town departments to increase efficiency and lower costs.

- Embarkation Fee Update
Ms. Countryman also provided the Selectboard with an update on the Embarkation Fee legislation, which is currently stalled in Committee. She is working with Tisbury and the other port towns to put together a letter to send to the legislators to keep things moving along.
- Goals for FY24
Mr. Malecki and Mr. Taus presented some of the research they conducted on the implementation of paid parking in town. There are numerous options for how to approach this, including locations, durations, resident exemptions, infrastructure (kiosks vs phone apps) and enforcement. Due to the many factors, it is hard to get an accurate assessment of potential revenue for the town, but it could be substantial. The Committee and the Selectboard discussed how to proceed with looking into this. There was some disagreement amongst both groups about what other

Committees should be involved in the discussion; everyone agreed that open lines of communication would be necessary, both internally as well as with the public. Other topics of discussion included working with the Town of Tisbury to share resources, increasing the percentage of the short term rental and adding the Community Impact fee, requiring a local registration process to operate a short term rental, and potential PILOT opportunities.

- Other Items for Joint Updates/Information
Ms. Countryman invited the Selectboard members to make suggestions for topics the FinCom can look into on behalf of the town.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the minutes was postponed.

COY Transfers

Ms. Potter explained that all five requested COY transfers are related to redistribution of salary funds and no transfer exceeds the original appropriation. She then read through and provided brief explanations for each of the transfers.

- FY23 Budget Transfers under MGL 44:33B

#1 – Unclassified BOS/FinCom:

Transfer a total of \$131,000 from Health Care to Self-Insurance Trust Fund (\$70,000), Town Building Utilities (\$36,000), Finance Committee contract services (\$2,500) and Legal Services (\$22,500).

Motion placed on the floor by Mr. Weiss to approve the transfer request. Mr. Fitzgerald seconds the motion, no further discussion, roll call vote:

McGroarty – Aye, Malecki – Aye, Taus – Aye, Weiss – Aye, Countryman – Aye, Ruley – Aye, Fitzgerald – Aye.

Motion passes unanimously (7-0-0).

#2 – Unclassified BOS

Transfer \$15,000 from Administrative Salaries to Legal Services.

Motion placed on the floor by Mr. Weiss to approve the transfer request. Mr. Fitzgerald seconds the motion, no further discussion, roll call vote:

McGroarty – Aye, Malecki – Aye, Taus – Aye, Weiss – Aye, Countryman – Aye, Ruley – Aye, Fitzgerald – Aye.

Motion passes unanimously (7-0-0).

#3 – Building Department:

Transfer \$51,750 from Council on Aging Salaries and Veterans Benefits to Building Local Inspector Salary.

Motion placed on the floor by Mr. Weiss to approve the transfer request. Mr. Taus seconds the motion, discussion:

Ms. McGroarty stated that the town is lucky to have the option to make this transfer but it is not good practice.

Roll call vote:

McGroarty – Abstain, Malecki – Aye, Taus – Aye, Weiss – Aye, Countryman – Aye, Ruley – Aye, Fitzgerald – Aye.

Motion carries (6-0-1).

#4 – Public Buildings:

Transfer \$32,000 from MVRHS District Assessment and Conservation Admin to Public Building Maintenance.

Motion placed on the floor by Mr. Weiss to approve the transfer request. Mr. Malecki seconds the motion, no further discussion, roll call vote:

McGroarty – Nay, Malecki – Aye, Taus – Abstain, Weiss – Aye, Countryman – Aye, Ruley – Aye, Fitzgerald – Aye.

Motion carries **(5-1-1)**.

#5 – Highway:

Transfer \$20,000 from Snow and Ice Wages and Labor/Mechanic Salaries to Other Wages.

Motion placed on the floor by Mr. Weiss to approve the transfer. Mr. Taus seconds the motion, no further discussion, roll call vote:

McGroarty – Abstain, Malecki – Aye, Taus – Aye, Weiss – Aye, Countryman – Abstain, Ruley – Aye, Fitzgerald – Aye.

Motion carries **(5-0-2)**.

Town Administrator/Accountant Comments

None.

*Mr. Ruley departs the meeting.

Member Comments

Ms. McGroarty requested that the neighbors of Farm Pond be kept informed about the culvert project.

Public Comments

None.

Adjournment

At 6:40pm a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Taus and seconded by Mr. Fitzgerald. No further discussion, roll call vote:

McGroarty – Aye, Malecki – Aye, Taus – Aye, Weiss – Aye, Countryman – Aye, Fitzgerald - Aye

Motion passes unanimously **(6-0-0)**.

Meeting Documents on File:

1. 20230601 COY Transfers #2 for FinComm & BOS
2. TA/ATA Report 2023.05.23

Respectfully Submitted
Juliet Mulinare, Recorder

Minutes Approved: 6/15/2023