

Town of Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 15, 2023, 5:00pm
OB Town Hall Meeting Room/Zoom Conference

Present: Chair – Sherry Countryman, Maura McGroarty, Richard Weiss, Mike Taus, Bob Malecki, Reuben Fitzgerald, Mimi Davisson, Sean DeBettencourt

Absent: Ryan Ruley

Others: Deborah Potter, Jason Balboni

Recorder: Juliet Mulinare

5:01pm Ms. Countryman called the Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee meeting to order.

Announcements

The next meeting will be on July 6th.

Ms. Countryman would like to hold a joint meeting with the Tisbury Finance Committee; she is discussing possible dates with the Chair.

The OB Assessor will join the meeting on July 20th for a discussion about tax rates and evaluations.

Approval of Minutes

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the May 18, 2023 meeting.

Mr. Taus made a motion to approve the 5/18/23 draft minutes. Mr. Weiss seconds the motion, no further discussion, roll call vote:

McGroarty – Aye, Malecki – Aye, Weiss – Aye, Countryman – Aye, Taus – Aye, Davisson – Aye, DeBettencourt – Aye, Fitzgerald – Aye.

Motion passes unanimously **(8-0-0)**.

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the June 1, 2023 meeting.

Mr. Taus made a motion to approve the 6/1/23 draft minutes. Mr. Weiss seconds the motion, no further discussion, roll call vote:

McGroarty – Aye, Malecki – Aye, Weiss – Aye, Countryman – Aye, Taus – Aye, Davisson – Abstain, DeBettencourt – Abstain, Fitzgerald – Aye.

Motion carries **(6-0-2)**.

Parking Discussion Update

Mr. Malecki and Mr. Taus spoke with a sales rep from ParkMobile, an app that provides a platform for people to pay for parking. Mr. Malecki and Mr. Taus provided the Committee with information about how the app works, the various options for payment and how the host company is compensated. Next, they will reach out to various cities and towns that have recently implemented the app to see how it's working. The Committee discussed how paid parking areas will be enforced and what tools the app provides to facilitate enforcement. The Committee discussed how best to educate the community on this idea and the revenue it could provide to the town. Mr. Balboni, Selectboard member and Chair of the Roads and Byways Committee, suggested that the Committee should engage the Business Community to see what they think; he also said it was important to get support from the Selectboard. Ms. Countryman responded that the Committee is gathering information to make an educated recommendation to the Selectboard, however, they can always choose not to follow the FinCom's recommendations. Mr. Taus and Mr. Malecki will continue to meet with vendors and compile information about the various options.

Community Impact Fee Update

Ms. Countryman stated that there is not much to discuss on this topic as it really comes down to whether the Selectboard wants to implement this additional 3% fee. Ms. Countryman said Selectboard Chair Green-Beach will include this on an upcoming Selectboard agenda for discussion.

The Committee discussed the pros and cons of requiring short term rental owners to register locally, in addition to the required State registration. Ms. Potter stated that Tisbury tried to do a local registration but discovered that the cost outweighed the benefit and it was too labor intensive for town employees to add to their workload. The Committee decided to discuss this further at the joint meeting with the Tisbury FinCom.

PILOT Update

Ms. McGroarty received a list of all publicly and privately-owned tax exempt properties in Oak Bluffs from the Assessor. The Committee discussed the list of properties and discussed how PILOTs might be implemented. Ms. Potter stated that these non-profits are under no obligation to pay PILOTs; the only way to extract money from tax-exempt entities is to appeal to their impact on the surrounding community and the need for everyone to carry their weight as it relates to the use of town services.

County Social Services Suggestions for Budget Season

The Committee reviewed a budget submission template provided by Ms. Potter that could be provided to the County to improve and streamline the budget review process for County services.

The Committee discussed what else they would like to see from the County when they present their budget requests. The Committee expressed concerns about duplicative services being provided and overlap with other entities. They also would like to be provided with more information about who is served by these programs, the roles and responsibilities of the staff, metrics, new initiatives and goals and whether other funding sources have been pursued.

Review of TA/ATA Report and Finances to Date

Ms. Davisson inquired as to whether the Council on Aging is open to the public. Ms. Potter stated that it is. Ms. Davisson also asked about the number of people who use the library and whether the town charges for EV parking. Ms. Potter said the Librarian will have information on the number of users and that the Town currently has an EV charging station at Town Hall that generated \$228 in May. They are also looking at other potential locations for EV chargers.

Committee Updates

Ms. McGroarty would like to relinquish her role as liaison to the OB School Committee. No one else on the Committee wanted to take on the role. Juliet is also the recorder for the OBSC so she will provide the Committee with updates.

Town Administrator/Accountant Comments

None.

Member Comments

None.

Public Comments

Mr. Weiss asked about the status of the turf field lawsuit. Mr. Balboni responded that it was not appropriate to discuss as the lawsuit is on-going and the topic is not an item on the meeting agenda.

Adjournment

At 6:55pm a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Taus and seconded by Mr. DeBettencourt. No further discussion, roll call vote:

McGroarty – Aye, Malecki – Aye, Weiss – Aye, Countryman – Aye, Taus – Aye, Davisson – Aye, DeBettencourt – Aye, Fitzgerald – Aye.

Motion passes unanimously (8-0-0).

Meeting Documents on File:

1. Oak Bluffs Budget Form for External Agencies
2. TA/ATA Report 2023.06.13

*Respectfully Submitted
Juliet Mulinare, Recorder*

Minutes Approved: 7/13/2023