

**Town of Oak Bluffs**  
**Finance and Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 3, 2023, 5:00pm**  
**OB Town Hall Meeting Room/Zoom Conference**

**Present:** Sherry Countryman, Maura McGroarty, Sean DeBettencourt, Bob Malecki, Richard Weiss, Bill Cleary

**Absent:** Reuben Fitzgerald, Ryan Ruley, Mike Taus

**Recorder:** Juliet Mulinare

At **5:05pm** Ms. Countryman called the Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee meeting to order.

**Announcements**

Ms. Countryman introduced Mr. Bill Cleary, the newest member to the Committee. Mr. Cleary was appointed to fill the vacant seat until the next election. Mr. Cleary has served on the Master Plan Committee, the Planning Board, the Energy Committee and worked on the Climate Action Plan; he is looking forward to learning more about the Town as a member of the FinCom.

Ms. Countryman stated that the next meeting will be October 17, 2023.

**Discussion & Vote on Revised STM Warrant Articles**

#11 – Amend Personnel By-law, Schedule A, Classification Schedule.

The Personnel Board has now voted in favor of this.

*Motion placed on the floor by Mr. DeBettencourt to recommend approval of the amended Classification Schedule. Mr. Weiss seconds the motion, discussion:*

The schedule was expanded from five grades to seven and some positions moved up a grade per the consultant's evaluation of increased responsibility within the job description.

*No further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously (6-0-0).*

#12 - Amend Personnel By-law, Schedule B, Compensation Schedule.

*Motion placed on the floor by Mr. DeBettencourt to recommend approval of the amended Compensation Schedule. Mr. Weiss seconds the motion, discussion:*

Ms. Countryman stated that the Personnel Board voted 4-1-0 on this, with her vote as the sole dissenting vote. Ms. McGroarty stated that she voted yes for this at the Personnel Board, but that was a mistake as she did not have enough information at the time to make an informed vote. Ms. Countryman stated that this article represents at least \$400,000 in salary changes and it should be voted on at Annual Town Meeting in April, when there is more information available. She expressed concerns about the ripple effect this will have with regard to salary increases. After further discussion, the Committee decided to postpone the vote until later in the meeting to see if Ms. Potter was able to join and provide additional information.

**OML/Dropbox Discussion**

Ms. Countryman said she spoke with Attorney Goldsmith about the centralized documentation effort. He said that Committee members can send information to one another as long as there is no commentary on the information included, however she has concerns about Committee members using their personal emails to receive public information because that has implications for other personal information. She

suggested that each Committee member be given a town email address to receive Committee-related information. The rest of the Committee agreed. Ms. Countryman will get this set up.

### **Survey Discussion**

The Committee discussed the survey questions that Ms. Davisson compiled and the best way to get a survey out to the voters. They also discussed how to increase community involvement and whether the voting process could be improved.

### **PILOT Follow Up – Propose a PILOT Policy?**

Ms. Countryman distributed information about Boston’s PILOT Project and proposed that the FinCom put together a draft PILOT policy for any new tax exempt organizations in Oak Bluffs. Currently, Aidylberg is the only entity that pays a PILOT. There is \$593 million in un-taxed property in Oak Bluffs. The Committee discussed how best to put together information to present to the Selectboard. Ms. McGroarty and Ms. Countryman will work on this and bring something to the next meeting for the Committee to review.

### **Review of TA/ATA Report and Finances to Date**

None.

### **Committee Updates**

Juliet provided the Committee with an update on the School Committee: the School is currently working on the new boiler design and the School Committee needs to make a recommendation on one of three options for how to proceed. The options range from \$1.2 million for a new propane-fueled system to \$7.4 million for a new fully electric system that would be integrated in with the solar panels and would also include air conditioning for the building. The Committee discussed the cost-to-benefit for an all-electric system.

### **Town Administrator/Accountant Comments**

None.

### **Member Comments**

Ms. McGroarty suggested that the Committee meet with both Fire and Police before budget season. Ms. Countryman stated that she never received information from Doug Ruskin on the County social service programs. Mr. Cleary asked to also meet with Highway ahead of budget season.

The Committee then returned to the previous discussion on Article #12 of the STM Warrant. *Having previously been motioned and seconded, the Committee took a roll call vote on Article #12, to amend the Town’s Compensation Schedule:*

Malecki – Aye, Cleary – Nay, Countryman – Nay, DeBettencourt – Abstain, Weiss – Abstain, McGroarty – Abstain.

*Motion does not carry (1-2-3).*

Ms. Countryman will draft an explanation of the vote to provide to the Town Administrator.

**Public Comments**

None.

**Adjournment**

*At 6:33pm a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. DeBettencourt and seconded by Mr. Malecki. No further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously (6-0-0).*

**Meeting Documents on File:**

1. 20230926 DRAFT COMBINED STM WARRANT
2. Boston's PILOT Project
3. Local Receipt Totals
4. MV Free Cash History
5. Town Stabilization Funds

*Respectfully Submitted  
Juliet Mulinare, Recorder*

Minutes Approved: 10/31/2023