

**Town of Oak Bluffs**  
**Finance and Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, October 31, 2023, 5:00pm**  
**OB Town Hall Meeting Room/Zoom Conference**

**Present:** Sherry Countryman, Maura McGroarty, Bill Cleary, Sean DeBettencourt, Ryan Ruley (zoom)

**Absent:** Bob Malecki, Richard Weiss, Mike Taus, Reuben Fitzgerald

**Other:** Deborah Potter

**Recorder:** Juliet Mulinare

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

**Announcements**

The next meeting will be 11/21/2023. Ms. Countryman invited Fire Chief Wirtz and will also invite Martina Thornton and Doug Ruskin from the County to come and discuss social services.

**Approval of Minutes**

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the September 7, 2023 meeting.

*Ms. McGroarty made a motion to approve the 9/7/23 minutes. Mr. DeBettencourt seconds the motion.*

Brief discussion to make minor edits.

*No further discussion, roll call vote:*

*Ruley – Aye, McGroarty – Aye, Countryman – Aye, DeBettencourt – Aye, Cleary – Abstain.*

Motion carries **(4-0-1)**.

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the September 19, 2023 meeting.

*Ms. McGroarty made a motion to approve the 9/23/23 minutes. Mr. DeBettencourt seconds the motion.*

*No further discussion, roll call vote:*

*Ruley – Abstain, McGroarty – Aye, Countryman – Abstain, DeBettencourt – Aye, Cleary – Aye.*

Motion carries **(3-0-2)**.

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the October 3, 2023 meeting.

*Mr. Cleary made a motion to approve the 10/3/23 minutes. Mr. DeBettencourt seconds the motion.*

*No further discussion, roll call vote:*

*Ruley – Abstain, McGroarty – Aye, Countryman – Aye, DeBettencourt – Aye, Cleary – Aye.*

Motion carries **(3-0-2)**.

The Committee reviewed the draft minutes from the October 17, 2023 meeting.

*Mr. Cleary made a motion to approve the 10/17/23 minutes. Mr. DeBettencourt seconds the motion.*

*No further discussion, roll call vote:*

*Ruley – Aye, McGroarty – Aye, Countryman – Aye, DeBettencourt – Aye, Cleary – Aye.*

Motion passes unanimously **(5-0-0)**.

**Follow Up: Email Addresses for FinCom**

The Committee discussed their new email addresses. The addresses have been named Fincom1 – Fincom9 so that they can be transferred to new committee members at the appropriate time. Town emails are being implemented in lieu of personal emails so that the town and new committee members retain

access to the information and historical data. The emails are associated with Committee members on the town website so the public knows who they are emailing.

### **Follow Up: Survey Distribution**

Ms. Countryman informed the Committee that Ms. Potter put the survey together on Survey Monkey and it looks great. Now the Committee needs to decide how to disseminate it. Ms. Potter suggested putting a QR code on a flier and posting the flier at various town buildings and on the website. She said they could also talk to the Assessor and send postcards out, but there would be a cost associated with that option. The Committee also discussed putting an ad in the newspaper, contacting the Oak Bluffs weekly columnist, distributing it at Special Town Meeting and posting at the school. The Committee also discussed the timing for releasing the survey and how it can be used annually as a tool for the budget process. The Committee decided to hand out hard copies at STM and have people return them at the end of the meeting. Ms. Potter said she will clear this with the moderator.

### **PILOT Policy Follow Up**

Ms. Countryman said she took a stab at drafting something that can be presented to the Selectboard to get their feedback. The Committee discussed whether implementing a PILOT policy would be worth the effort. Ms. Potter stated that it can be a simple policy and procedures can be developed. It will always bring in more money than if it didn't exist. The Committee discussed how to on-board existing non-profits so they start contributing to the tax base. Mr. DeBettencourt and Ms. Countryman will work with Ms. McGroarty to draft a policy to present to the Selectboard and the public.

### **Thoughts On STM: Articles to Provide Oral Commentary On**

The Committee discussed their negative vote on the Compensation Plan. There was no dollar amount indicated so Committee members felt they could not vote in favor. Ms. Potter stated that the dollar amount is within a range that won't change. Ms. McGroarty informed the Committee that the COLA was increased from 3.1% to 3.2% at the last Selectboard meeting.

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

None.

### **Committee Updates**

Ms. Mulinare reported that the OB School Committee voted to recommend the least expensive of the three options for the boiler replacement project. This option will make the system 96% efficient (currently 80%) and will also include preparations to eventually convert to an all-electric system. The cost is \$1.3 million.

Mr. Cleary reported that the biggest project on the Capital Plan is the seawall replacement. This project will be funded with a grant and town match funds. Also on the plan is \$125k to make improvements to the Sailing Camp building. The Committee approved the request for Harbormaster truck, which will be an electric vehicle. Ms. Potter asked how the truck would get charged. Mr. Cleary said they are meeting with Ms. Brough to discuss charging stations.

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

None.

### **Member Comments**

Ms. McGroarty said she tried to log onto the meeting where they discussed hospital 911 calls but was not able to.

### **Public Comments**

None.

### **Adjournment**

*At 6:42pm a motion to adjourn was made by Mr. DeBettencourt and seconded by Ms. McGroarty. No further discussion, vote taken and passed unanimously (5-0-0).*

### **Meeting Documents on File:**

1. PILOT Policy

*Respectfully Submitted  
Juliet Mulinare, Recorder*

Minutes Approved: 11/21/2023