**Dukes County Advisory Board on Expenditures**

Minutes

**Thursday, February 22, 2018**

**5:00pm**

29 Breakdown Lane, Tisbury, MA

**County Advisory Board (CAB):** Arthur Smadbeck (Edgartown – 38.60%), Skipper Manter (West Tisbury – 12.45%), Melinda Loberg (Tisbury 13.52%) and \*\*Bill Rossi (Chilmark – 16.56%)

\*\*Arrived Late

**Dukes County Commissioners (DCC):** Tristan Israel and Leon Brathwaite

**County Staff Present:** Martina Thornton – County Manager, Connie Andrade - Administrative Assistant to County Manager , Noreen Mavro Flanders – County Treasurer, Ann Metcalf – Asst. County Treasurer, Paulo DeOliveira – Register of Deeds, Chuck Cotnoir – Dukes County Emergency Manager, JoAnn Murphy – Veteran’s Agent, Ann Richart – MV Airport Manager and Bob Rosenbaum – Vice Chair Martha’s Vineyard Airport Commission

**Others:** Joanie Ames – MVTV, Martha’s Vineyard Airport Commission, Rich Saltzberg – MV Times

**Art called the public hearing to order at 5:05pm**

**FY2019 Proposed Dukes County Budget:**

Art reviewed the FY2019 Proposed Dukes County Budget noting no increase in funding from the Towns (see file). The total to be appropriated is $8,679,772.00. A discussion was held. Rich Saltzberg asked Martina if the MOU with the Sheriff was included in the proposed budget. Martina said yes, but said recently received notification that the Sheriff would like to terminate the agreement. It is under review by the DCC and it will be discussed at the March 7th meeting.

\*\*Bill Rossi arrives at 5:10pm

**Art closed the public hearing at 5:45pm**

Skipper asked what services the Sheriff provides to the County. Martina said patrolling the beach at Eastville, Norton Point and State Beach are the main services that will end. Chuck gave the CAB a brief update on the Emergency Management budget and the vehicles and trailers and how they are used. The CAB reviewed the Cape and Island license plate revenue (see file). Noreen said the Unreserved Fund balance from the draft audit report for 2017 is $1,051,311.00, which includes the Registry of Deeds. The Unreserved Fund balance is $55,840.00 less than last year. The CAB asked Noreen to email the full draft. Martina said this is the Unreserved Fund balance from June 30, 2017 and in 2018 the CAB voted to send $150,000.00 back to the towns for economic development and tourism. The CAB also approved $65k for capital improvements and the DCC approved an additional amount of $35k for the emergency water damage repairs at the courthouse. Those amounts will decrease the Unreserved Fund balance. Skipper said at a previous meeting that Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 35 Section 30 was distributed that stated the County could only keep 10% of the unused yearly assessment in the surplus funds account and any amounts must be used to decrease the following years assessments. Martina said the County cannot operate and pay bills with only $49k in the Unreserved Fund balance. She said the County should ask for an amendment to the legislation because that law is archaic. Skipper said that’s the law and the County should follow it. Noreen said because of the issues this can cause, the Plymouth County Treasurer had legislation passed that allows a County to have a stabilization fund. She said that is how the County could legally keep some money in a fund that would allow for cash flow. She said the County does not get money from the towns until November 1st; none of the programs the County runs can wait four months for funding and the County cannot operate those programs with $49k.

**Melinda/Bill made a motion to approve the FY2019 Dukes County Budget for 2019 as presented. So voted. Edgartown yes, Tisbury yes, Chilmark yes and West Tisbury no. Motion carries.**

**Skipper/Melinda made a motion to adjourn. So voted. Edgartown yes, Tisbury yes, Chilmark yes and West Tisbury yes. Motion carries.**

**CAB meeting was adjourned at 5:43pm.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

JOSEPH E. SOLLITTO, JR., Clerk of Courts

**Documents presented at the meeting and part of the Official Records:**

* Agenda
* FY2019 Proposed Dukes County Budget
* Cape and Island License Plate Revenue Spreadsheet