

# **The Dukes County Advisory Board on County Expenditures**

## **Minutes**

**Thursday, September 19, 2019**

**9:00am**

**Dukes County Administration Building**

**9 Airport Rd., Edgartown, MA 02539**

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

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

**County Staff Present:** Martina Thornton – County Manager, Paulo DeOliveira- Register of Deeds and Ann Metcalf – County Treasurer

**Others:** Bob Rosenbaum – Chair Airport Commission, Cindi Martin – Airport Director

**Art called the meeting to order at 9:00am.**

### **Minutes:**

**Skipper/Bill made a motion to approve the CAB Minutes from March 13, 2019 as presented. So voted. Edgartown – yes, West Tisbury – yes, Chilmark – abstains, Tisbury – yes. Motion carries.**

**Skipper/Bill made a motion to approve the CAB Minutes from June 28, 2019 as presented. So voted. Edgartown – yes, West Tisbury – yes, Chilmark – abstains, Tisbury – yes. Motion carries.**

### **FY2020 Capital Improvement Budget:**

Martina reviewed the requests with the CAB (see file). She said she received approval from the DCC to replace the furnace in the middle of the building. The building lost AC this summer and used window units. She is trying to get another proposal but the first one is \$14K. For the Courthouse she has a proposal to do mini splits that will help with the humidity for \$8K. She will be bringing updated numbers for the repairs to the next CAB meeting. Martina also said the roof at VHCAP will cost \$7K to replace. She told the CAB the County received \$132K reimbursement from the State for last year's capital improvements for the Courthouse.

**Bill/Melinda made a motion to appropriate \$12,493.00 from the FY2020 Capital Improvement budget for \$8,000.00 for mini splits at the Courthouse, \$4,493.00 for circulating pumps at the Courthouse (see file). So voted. Edgartown – yes, West Tisbury – no, Chilmark – yes, Tisbury – yes. Motion carries.**

Skipper asked Martina to talk to the Retirement Board to see if they will pay for part of the parking lot repairs and to research the lease with the Retirement office.

**Skipper/Melinda made a motion to appropriate \$20,748.21 from the FY2020 Capital Improvement for the Vineyard Health Care Access building to repair the roof for \$7,000.00 and \$13,748.21 to**

**repair/replace the furnace/AC unit in the middle of the Administration building. So voted. Edgartown – yes, West Tisbury – yes, Chilmark – yes, Tisbury – yes. Motion carries.**

Martina said that the water main at the courthouse needs to be replaced too.

**FY2020 General County Budget Amendments:**

Martina reviewed the changes made after the town meetings. The first change is to grant administration because West Tisbury did not pass two 5% on regional articles and Tisbury did not pass one. Those are a loss of approx. \$2K. The second change was at the Courthouse on the rents the original amount was \$135,500. She is amending the budget to \$132,863.00 per the trial courts. All the towns approved the contribution to County OPEB bringing the total to \$112,293.00. The one change that is not on the request is the Treasurer's office will require an additional \$3,718.80. Martina just received the request this morning. After the changes, this brings surplus down to \$25,217.20. She reviewed the Treasurer dept. amendments with the CAB. The increase is for an increase in staff hours. The DCC agreed to increase the hours for the Senior Financial Clerk up to 40 hours for three months. Martina said we will be looking at long term and decide if the extra hours are needed permanently. A discussion was held. Skipper asked why the treasurer's office needs 10 hours. Ann said she's been working six to seven days a week for the last year to get stuff done. When she took over the dept. it was recommended that she hire someone at a Senior Financial Clerk as opposed to an Asst. Treasurer, so it took a lot of training. Previously, Noreen was 40 hours, Ann was 40 and Donna was 20 hours and that 10 hours a week puts a big hole in the department. Skipper said the elected position is salaried and not hourly. He also asked how many hours the Treasurer's office has paid Noreen. Ann said Noreen has been paid \$3K for this year and she is done. Ann said Noreen left certain things that needed to be cleaned up, so her time last year was helping with things that happen once time a year and cleaning up things from ten years ago. The CAB had a discussion regarding West Tisbury and Tisbury not passing the 5% fee. Skipper said there's no incentive to vote for the 5% since the other towns approved it and paid their share.

**Bill/Melinda made a motion to approve the FY2020 General County Budget amendments as presented (see file). So voted. Edgartown – yes, West Tisbury – no, Chilmark – abstains, Tisbury – yes. Motion carries.**

**FY2020 Regional Services Budget Amendments:**

Martina reviewed the FY2020 budget amendment for the social services program. She said the current caseworker did not want the extra hours. So, the County was able to hire two part time people and stay within the budget. Since then the program assistant and caseworker left and the remaining part time case worker has given her notice. She would like to amend the budget to restore the position to 30 hours with benefits.

**Skipper/Melinda made a motion to approve the FY2020 General County Budget amendments for Dukes County Social Services as presented (see file). So voted. Edgartown – yes, West Tisbury – yes, Chilmark – yes, Tisbury – yes. Motion carries.**

Martina reviewed the proposed changes for the Center for Living (C4L) with the CAB. She said they hired a new supervisor for the social day program and needed more money to pay that individual. The original budget was increased by \$2,454.00 because they hired a qualified person with a lot of experience. They also hired a new program assistant and decreased the hours from 35 to 30 hours per week, so that has

saved them \$11K to \$11.5K. And the Center for Living board at the last meeting approved the creation of another position for meal program assistant for 15 hours a week. Their responsibilities will help to prepare meals and work in the kitchen and the cost will be \$16,700.00. The net of these changes will increase the salary lines by \$7,627.00. These changes have caused other smaller lines to increase like unemployment etc. the C4L is planning on covering all these costs from their health insurance line so they do not need any additional funding. A discussion was held. Skipper said these types of items should be addressed during budget process. Martina said the health insurance line included dental, which is not something anyone else gets from the towns.

**Melinda/Bill made a motion to approve the FY2020 Regional Service Budget Amendments for Martha's Vineyard Center for Living as presented. So voted. Edgartown – yes, West Tisbury – no, Chilmark – yes, Tisbury – yes. Motion carries.**

The FY2020 Regional Services Budget Amendments for Vineyard Health Care Access Program were not voted. There was no need as they reduced hours in May to Feb.

**Manager's Report:**

**FY2021 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA):**

- **FY2021 Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA):** Martina said the COLA for FY2021 according to the agreed upon formula will be 2.25%. She explained to the CAB how it was calculated each year.

**Special Legislation:**

- **Special Legislation – Treasurer's Office:** Martina said the DCC filed legislation to change the treasurer position from elected to appointed. The request to change the position will be on the ballot for the 2020 elections. It would not take effect until the end of the term for the treasurer that is elected.
- **Special Legislation – Airport Bonding:** Martina said at the last DCC meeting they approved a request to file legislation for the Airport bonding. Martina said if the Airport needs money then the DCC would approve the bond. A discussion was held. The CAB recommended having a checklist for approving monies for the Airport. Bob said the only change is that it would not be voted on at the state legislature.

**Regional Contracts:**

- **Regional Contracts 5% Fee:** So far only the Town of Edgartown has approved the contract, but Martina does not have it from any of the other towns. A discussion was held. Skipper said it should be in the budget and West Tisbury would rather the County reduce expenditures.

**Homelessness Prevention Funding:**

Martina gave the CAB an update on the homelessness prevention case worker, Karen Tewhey. She said the County recently arranged for two people to get transition housing on the Cape. She also said the funding from United Way last year was \$12,500.00 and this year it was decreased to \$7,500.00. Because

of the funding cuts, Martina will need to cut Karen's hours. That will affect the level of service people will receive. The funding from the State for HAC has not benefited the Island. A discussion was held. Martina asked the CAB for an extra \$10K to get the service at the level it was last year. Skipper said the \$5K was strictly for hotel rooms and not for administrative fees. The CAB decided to discuss this program during the next budget season. Skipper recommended having the program run under MV Community Services. The CAB said this program should go before the towns for funding. The CAB is not interested in expanding County services.

**CAB meeting was adjourned at 10:30am.**

Respectfully Submitted by:

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

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T. GEORGE DAVIS, Clerk of Courts

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

- Agenda
- CAB Minutes from March 13, 2019 and June 28, 2019
- FY2020 Amended Budget Center for Living
- FY2020 Capital Improvement Budget
- FY2020 Social Services Amended Budget
- FY2020 County Administration Amended Budget