

**Town of Oak Bluffs
Finance and Advisory Committee
Thursday, March 12, 2009 3:00PM
Oak Bluffs Library**

Present: Chair Thad Harshbarger, Steve Auerbach
Doug Best, Mike Perry, Bill McGrath*,
Peter Palches, Hans Von Steiger.

Others: Town Administrator – Michael Dutton*
Chair Board of Selectmen – Ron Di Orio*,
Kerry Scott*,
Highway Dept. - Richie Combra, Jr.*
Supt. Shared Services – Supt. Jim Weiss,
OBS –Asst. Prin. Gina Patti
OBSC –Priscilla Sylvia
MVRHS – Steve Nixon, Mark Friedman
Tax Collector – Cheryl Sashin
Recorder - Marni Lipke

Absent: Mimi Davisson, Frank Case,

* Late arrivals or early departures
noted solely to mark vote counts.

The meeting was called to order at 3:35PM. In the middle of the meeting Chair Thad Harshbarger introduced and welcomed Steve Auerbach as the new FinCom appointee (until the election).

I. Proposed FY2010 Budget and Overrides (See documents on file.)

There was some confusion on the status of the Oak Bluffs Fiscal Year 2010 (FY10) Budget. Budget and override protocol were explored. Only the Board of Selectmen could authorize overrides with the deadline at 4:00PM today, March 12th.

- Three monetary and three debt exclusion overrides had been voted by the Board of Selectmen:

- \$4,000 for the Dukes County Pest Management Program,
- \$8,000 for the Dukes County Vineyard Health Care Access Program (VHCAP),
- \$10,000 to compensate the VHCAP for decreased Mass. State funding.
- Debt exclusion for a bond to dredge Sengekontacket Pond,
- Debt exclusion for the MV Regional High School bus purchase bond,
- Debt exclusion for the bond to purchase the Leonardo lots.

- PETER PALCHES MOVED THAT THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE DEVELOP A SECOND BUDGET TO BE PRESENTED AT THE 2009 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING; HANS VON STEIGER SECONDED;

- The FinCom debated the motion and ancillary issues.

- right of the FinCom to present an alternate budget,
- whether to include the MV Regional High School (MVRHS) budget as it was an assessment,

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- accuracy of revenue projections, eg,
 - ° remediation of Ocean Park septic could exhaust Wastewater Dept. retained earnings,
 - ° new taxi, tour bus revenues as unknown,
 - ° possible further losses due to the economic downturn,
- rectification of solid waste losses (see 2/12/09 Minutes p.3).
- Town Administrator Michael Dutton reported that the Selectmen discussed the FinCom recommendation (see 3/5/09 Minutes p. 3 #5) and voted specifically not to present any overrides other than the six outlined above. The debts had been incorporated into the current FY10 Budget draft in case the debt exclusion overrides failed.
- The FinCom discussed the ramifications of this vote which was shown in the Draft March 4th Budget showing a deficit of \$250,000 from the FinCom recommendation to return the Highway moneys. The FinCom then discussed this clarified situation.
- The inclusion of the \$250,000 paving in the general budget would set the base for departmental level funding in future years.
- A special election could be called to vote further overrides if the Town Meeting so voted.
- There were protests against any attempts to further increase tax burdens on homeowners.
- There was some protest that the meeting issues were unclear and unnecessary BILL
- MCGRATH MOVED TO ADJOURN; THERE WAS NO SECOND.
- Oak Bluffs School Committee Chair Priscilla Sylvia re-iterated previous Oak Bluffs School Budget positions (see 2/19/09 Minutes) including the elimination of 5 positions in FY10 and 3 positions over the last three years. It was also pointed out that next year was likely to be different as union contracts were re-negotiated.
- The OB FinCom argued that their charge was to consider the fiscal health for the entire Oak Bluffs community and protested their lack of authority over the school budgets.
- Oak Bluffs Board of Selectmen Chair Ron DiOrio reviewed the current stringent fiscal measures and financial direction of the Selectmen. The Selectmen were happy to meet with the FinCom as long as everyone understood their roles.
- Supt Jim Weiss reported that federal stimulus moneys might be available however:
 - the guidelines for spending changed daily,
 - the moneys could not be used to offset budget losses.
- There was a discussion on lack of notification to the schools of the FinCom decision on the FY10 Budget (see 2/19/09 Minutes p.3 and 3/5/09 Minutes p.3 #5). Chair Thad Harshbarger stated this was his responsibility.
- MOTION AND SECOND WITHDRAWN.
- IT WAS THE CONSENSUS OF THE OAK BLUFFS FINANCE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS THE BUDGET DRAFTS AND TOWN MEETING WARRANT AT THEIR MARCH 19, 2009 MEETING AND TO MEET WITH THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN AT THEIR MARCH 23, 2009 MEETING.

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Adjourn

• PETER PALCHES MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 4:25PM; BILL MCGRATH SECONDED; MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED BY CONSENSUS.

Action List:

Meetings

- OB FinCom - 3:30PM Thursdays, March 19 & April 2, 2009 at the OB Library
- OB Board of Selectmen – 5:00PM, Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at the OB Library

Ongoing Action List from previous meetings.

- FinCom - talk about Federal Stimulus money at Town Meeting.
- FinCom – Continue to emphasize \$2,000,000 Stabilization Fund goal.
- Thad - Inform the Selectmen in writing of all significant FinCom decisions
- Inform Depts. - any item not in dept. budgets will not be recommended for free cash.
- update Capital Improvement Plan regularly.
- Regular meetings with Bd. of Selectmen and Personnel Board re: Financial Team.
- Ask about end-of-year transfers in the FY09 budget season.

3/19/09 Agenda:

- Revise this Agenda
- Minutes 2/5/09, 3/5/09, 3/12/09
- FY10 Budget.

Future Agendas:

- Discussion with School Representatives on school budgets / override decision.
- Ambulance Fund Report.
- Dukes County Charter Commission Report
- CDC - Cost of Services Survey Results.
- Reconsider Finance Dept. Reorganization

Documents on file:

- Oak Bluffs Estimated Budget for FY2010 3/10/2009 FinCom Version

• These Minutes approved as written by the Oak Bluffs FinCom 3/24/09.