

Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee
Minutes of December 17, 2009 Meeting
Held in the 2nd floor meeting room of the Oak Bluffs Library at 3:30 p.m.

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Present: Steve Auerbach, Doug Best, Frank Case, Mimi Davisson, Thad Harshbarger, Mike Perry

Absent: Bill McGrath, Mac Starks, Hans von Steiger

Others Present: Kathy Burton, Michael Dutton, Cheryll Sashin

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m. by Chair Mimi Davisson.

A report about the Oak Bluffs School budget hearing was added to the agenda.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes

A motion to approve the minutes of November 19, 2009 was made by Frank Case and seconded by Thad Harshbarger. The minutes were approved as written – 5 For and 1 Abstention.

A motion to approve the minutes of December 3, 2009 was made by Doug Best and seconded by Mike Perry. Two amendments were made:

1. page 3 under Revenue: “Sell other town properties for revenue generation . . .” was changed to “Utilize other town properties for revenue generation . . .”
2. page 3 under Spending: “Board stipends . . . “ was changed to “Board stipend changes . . .”

The minutes were approved unanimously as amended.

Report from Oak Bluffs School Budget Hearing

Steve Auerbach and Mimi Davisson reported that the School budget has a gross spending increase of 4.83%. The School Committee will use \$155,000 from the School Choice Fund to reduce spending to a net increase of 2.17%. The 2.17% net increase is attributable to a 4.69% increase in allocated \$ from the Superintendent’s budget and a 1.42% increase in salaries. Non-personnel expenses are budgeted at a 0.0% increase.

There will be a warrant article for school residential placement \$ for FY2010 (the current fiscal year), and again for FY2011. State reimbursements for residential placement have declined from 70% several years ago to 40% last year.

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What Next? – Follow-Up from December 3 Meeting

A series of action items to analyze options for budgeting was discussed and modified:

Action Item	Target Completion	Who
Invite the Tisbury FinCom to meet with the OB FinCom in January 2010 to discuss possible areas for collaboration between the two towns.	after Dec 17 FinCom meeting	M. Davisson
Prepare a summary of the roads scheduled for re-paving in the next year, listed in priority sequence with a potential cost for each road. Also include other capital infrastructure projects in the analysis.	January 7, 2010	M. Dutton
Prepare an analysis of the potential impact of the Hotel Tax to Oak Bluffs, including analysis of what comparable MA resort and Vineyard towns have implemented the tax.	January 7, 2010	M. Dutton
Prepare an analysis of the potential impact of the Meals Tax to Oak Bluffs, including analysis of what comparable MA resort and Vineyard towns have implemented the tax.	January 7, 2010	M. Dutton
Prepare an analysis of the Town's costs to provide garbage collection, including a calculation of what trash stickers would have to cost in order to completely fund garbage collection.	January 7, 2010	M. Dutton
Prepare an analysis of opportunities to raise license fees for licensees who are conducting business on town property. Also research possibilities for the harbor/marina and Sailing Camp Park as well as other license and fee schedules. Provide Town costs to provide supporting services where available.	January 7, 2010	M. Dutton
Prepare an analysis of the potential \$ impact of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing hours for non-critical services Reducing all services across the board 	January 7, 2010	M. Dutton
Resurrect past analyses of possibilities for paid parking in town for discussion at the next meeting.	January 7, 2010	M. Dutton

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Prepare a list of tax exempt properties in Oak Bluffs owned by non-profits and other tax exempt institutions. Include the taxable value of each property along with information about PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) being paid to the Town for each property.	January 7, 2010	M. Dutton
Expand the FinCom's understanding of Charter School funding	1 st Quarter 2010	M. Davisson

A motion was made by Mike Perry and seconded by Frank Case for the Finance Chairman to invite the Tisbury Finance Committee to meet with the Oak Bluffs Finance Committee in January to discuss possibilities for inter-municipal co-operation. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made Doug Best and seconded by Thad Harshbarger to recommend to the Board of Selectmen to pursue a study of alternate uses and opportunities for better utilizing the Everett Rogers Building and its related spaces, such as parking. The motion passed unanimously.

Input from the Capital Planning Committee will be needed soon for budget and warrant article preparation.

Peter Palches and Harvey Beth will be invited to meet with the Finance Committee about Affordable Housing funding issues and how they might affect the Town.

Action items were accepted by consensus.

Additional spending requests for next year have surfaced since the December 3 meeting:

\$50,000 for re-instating life guards

\$35,000 for recreation supplies and equipment

\$75,000 for re-roofing three town buildings

Unknown \$ for residential school placement in both FY2010 and FY2011

The preliminary FY2011 budget for the Martha's Vineyard Commission (MVC) is 0.3% less than the MVC's FY2010 budget.

A draft detailed budget schedule for January through April 2010 was discussed. A major change from the previous schedule is the addition of a public input session on January 14 to get the public's reactions to budget-balancing alternatives. The hearing about Meals and Hotels Taxes – originally planned for Feb. 4 – will be combined into the January 14 hearing. The session needs a clear, substantive agenda. Agenda topics will be: 1) Possible Revenue Enhancements, 2) Possible Spending Reductions, 3) Specific Requests for Increased Spending Next Year, 4) Anticipated Warrant Articles

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Many ways to make the public aware of the January 14 session were discussed – extensive use of bulletin boards (Library, Senior Center, Post Office), cable TV, Town web site, newspaper OpEds and/or interviews, community news in both newspapers, personal invitations.

The schedule was accepted by consensus.

NEW BUSINESS

Meeting Schedule January – April 2010

Finance Committee meetings will be posted for every Thursday from January 7 through March 18, in case they are needed. Meetings that are not needed will be canceled.

Thad Harshbarger moved that the meeting be adjourned and it was seconded by all in the room. Decision was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by M. Davisson, substituting for M. Lipke

Attachments:

1. Agenda, Oak Bluffs Finance and Advisory Committee, Thursday, December 17, 2009, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m., Oak Bluffs Library, 2nd Floor Meeting Room
2. Oak Bluffs School FY'11 Budget Analysis, Draft #2, 12/15/2009
3. DRAFT Oak Bluffs FY2011 Budget Prep Calendar, January – April 2010, Dec. 17, 2009
4. Dec. 17, 2009, email to the Oak Bluffs Personnel Board from M. Davisson re: OB Personnel Issues for Budgeting

Approved by FinCom January 7, 2010.