

**UP-ISLAND REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEE
OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
4:00PM, Monday, December 16, 2109
West Tisbury School**

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Present: Chair – Kate DeVane, Roxanne Ackerman, Skipper Manter, Alex Salop,
Others: Supt's Shared Services Office: Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith,
Amy Tierney,
Principals: Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Susan Stevens, Mary Boyd,
Press – Lynn Christoffers – MVTV, William Sennott – Vineyard Gazette,
Recorder: Marni Lipke *Late arrivals or early departures

Call to Order (Agenda item #I)

The Up-Island Regional School Committee (UIRSC) meeting was called to order.

Fiscal Year 2021 (FY21) Budget (See documents on file.) (Agenda item #II)

- Although a \$100,000 Reserve Line was established (see 12/5/19 Minutes p.2) no source of funds was decided. The UIRSC argued the complex issue of Excess and Deficiency (E & D), Other Post Employee Benefits (OPEB) liability and emergency spending for some time.
- The UIRSD promised the Aquinnah, Chilmark and West Tisbury Finance Committees (FinComs) to review E & D at the end of each fiscal year and commit an appropriate portion of the E & D residual to the OPEB liability as part of the pay-down policy, consequently the FinComs should be notified of any change to that practice.
- There was no legislation on funding OPEB margins or percentages. It was currently an actuarial liability on the books. Various municipalities had adopted different ways of dealing with situation, however the UIRSD was well ahead of the curve.
- Other Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) elementary/middle schools did not have E & D but used other funds such as School Choice as reserves.
- The UIRSD could request Town FinCom Reserve Funds in an emergency.
- Skipper Manter advocated strongly for returning all E & D funds to the Towns as the most transparent process. Others felt this would be so confusing as to be less transparent to the public.
- In an emergency, other lines could be spent down, and then reimbursed after the E & D Selectmen/Town approval and 45 day waiting period.
- Offsetting the Budget with E & D would be a way to roll E & D over, however the initial year would be a tight gamble.
- KATE DEVANE MOVED TO NOT USE EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY TO OFFSET THE BUDGET TO BUT TO CONTINUE TO SEND IT TO THE DUKES COUNTY OTHER POST EMPLOYEE BENEFITS LIABILITY TRUST; THERE WAS NO SECOND.
- *KATE DEVANE MOVED:*
 - *TO DEDICATE THE REMAINDER OF THE RESERVE LINE TO THE DUKES COUNTY OTHER POST EMPLOYEE BENEFITS LIABILITY TRUST AT THE END OF EACH FISCAL YEAR IN THE SAME MANNER AS PAST EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY PRACTICE; AND*

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- TO COMMIT TO REDUCE THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 BUDGET ASSESSMENT BY THE CERTIFIED FISCAL YEAR 2020 EXCESS AND DEFICIENCY AMOUNT; ALEX SALOP SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 1 NAY-SKIPPER MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS. Mr. Manter was in favor of the first part of the motion.

- The UIRSC had discussed an unfunded, non-binding referendum on a West Tisbury School (WTS) School Resource Officer (SRO) (see 12/5/19 Minutes p.3 #III).
- The Chilmark Police Department proposed a funded warrant article to continue/regularize current Chilmark School practice (see 10/21/19 Minutes p.1 #V C).
- The West Tisbury Police Department asked the UIRSD to fund an SRO, which would also benefit the Department through a different assignment in the summer. As receiving middle school students from all three towns the funding should be in the UIRSD budget rather than the West Tisbury Police budget.
- The UIRSC had discussed community and social benefits and drawbacks of an SRO such as: familiarity, relationship building, untrained counseling, reactions to law enforcement and reminders of a violence prone world.
- An SRO could possibly counsel students interested in a law enforcement career but should not otherwise be “counseling” students.
- Superintendent Matt D’Andrea and Asst. Superintendent Richie Smith emphasized that the Island was not immune to the dangers of the world and that although relationship building, community and familiarity were excellent perquisites the primary reason for an SRO was safety.
- The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) and other MVPS SRO funding mechanisms were compared.
- A warrant article (placing a WTS SRO in the UIRSD Budget) would allow the individual Towns to decide on the position. It would have to be based on a Memorandum of Understanding that clearly delineated both SRO and WTS purview.
- The West Tisbury Chief of Police was interested in addressing the West Tisbury Annual Town Meeting (ATM) on the need for an SRO, in which case he and/or the other District Police Chiefs should address Aquinnah and Chilmark ATMs.
- *ALEX SALOP MOVED TO DEFINE AND FUND A WEST TISBURY SCHOOL, SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER THROUGH PLACEHOLDER WARRANT ARTICLES; KATE DEVANE SECONDED; MOTION PASSED: 3 AYES, 1 NAY-SKIPPER MANTER, 0 ABSTENTIONS.* Mr. Manter was in favor of reducing the budget to cover the cost.
- Another meeting was scheduled (see below: Meetings/Events).
- Roxanne Ackerman requested a review of all UIRSD administrative contracts in Executive Session.

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

(Agenda Item #IV)

Adjournment

- *SKIP MANTER MOVED TO ADJOURN AT 5:26PM; ROXANNE ACKERMAN SECONDED; MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.*

continued

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Meetings/Events

- UIRSC– Following this meeting, Monday, December 16, 2019–WTS
- UIRSC/Budget Hearing/Certification – 8:30AM, Monday, January 6, 2020–WTS
- MVRHSC - 5:00PM, Monday, January 6, 2020 – MVRHS

Documents on File:

- Agenda 12/16/19
- Sign In Sheet 12/16/19
- UIRSD – FY21 Warrant Articles (3 p.)
- FY21 Bus Transportation Proposed Budget by District Draft #5.0 December 16, 2019 (4 p.)
- UIRSD FY2021 Assessment –Draft #3 – December 16, 2019
- UIRSD FY21 Budget Draft #3, December 16, 2019
- Up-Island Regional School District FY21 General Fund Budget – Draft #3, December 16, 2019 (14 p.)

Minutes approved 1/27/20