

**Tisbury School Committee**  
**3:00PM, Wednesday, June 29, 2022**  
**by Zoom Conference**

1

**TSC Members Present:** Chair Amy Houghton, Jen Cutrer, Michael Watts,  
**Staff:** Assistant Principal - Melissa Ogden  
Supt. Matt D'Andrea, Richie Smith – Asst. Superintendent,  
Mark Friedman – Business Administrator,  
**Town:** Finance Director – Jon Snyder,  
**Press:** Louisa Hufstader -Vineyard Gazette,  
**Others:** CHA/Daedalus – Michael Owen, Recorder - Marni Lipke,

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 3:03PM.

I. Fiscal Year 2022 (FY22) Budget Transfer – Tisbury School Building Project

The ~ \$193,000 residual in the Tisbury School Preventive Maintenance line prompted a proposal to use the funds to defray some of the costs of the temporary school campus especially those related to utility costs. The TSC and Administration were committed and working diligently to finding ways to reduce the burden to the Town of unexpected expenses arising from inflation, supply chain issues, etc. but they also understood there were some municipal accounting restrictions. Several possible options were explored.

- Preventive Maintenance funds could be transferred to the Utilities, Power & Light line to cover a \$118,000 Eversource estimated invoice for power lines to the temporary campus.

- The funds could also be used to cover necessary work (by WT Rich and Lawrence Lynch) maintaining the Spring St. parking lot opposite the gym.

- Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 44, Section 33B allowed transfers from one Department to another in any amount appropriated (without reference to whether they were operating or capital expenses) within the last 2 month of a fiscal year or first 15 day of the next fiscal year—with the exception of School funds which required a School Committee vote. In this manner the residual might be used to offset Town expenses related for some other Department.

- The \$193,000 could follow the usual path and revert to Free Cash in which case the TSC could propose it be dedicated to temporary school costs at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting (ATM).

- Tisbury Finance Director began the discussion by stating that the only option acceptable to him and the Town Accountant was the Free Cash/ATM vote option, explaining that MGL 44/33B was interpreted to apply only to operating funds, and differentiating between the cost of bringing power to the temporary school (capital) and paying the temporary school utility bill (operating costs).

- A discussion followed exploring the possible accounting solutions and factors.

- Martha's Vineyard Public Schools (MVPS) Business Administrator Mark Friedman noted that this was a gray area of the law dependent on local practice and support; for example operating/capital costs might encompass a \$60,000 boiler that needed to be replaced (capital) and paid for within a school operating budget.

- In addition, encumbrance and transfer for a known expense within the first 6-8 weeks of FY23 would fit within a number of accounting regulations.
- A precedent was noted in 2019 when hazardous material remediation forced the Tisbury School to split and move to the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), incurring some capital costs covered in transfer from the operating budget.
  - Mr. Snyder requested time to confer with the Accountant and independent auditors. Chair Amy Houghton apologized for the late notice which was due to end-of-year financial work but again emphasized the commitment to relieve Town and taxpayer burden.
  - **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. MICHAEL WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. JEN CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY VOTED (3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS) ITS INTENTION TO DEDICATE THE \$193,434.15 FISCAL YEAR 2022 TISBURY SCHOOL BUDGET PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE LINE RESIDUAL TO REDUCING THE BURDEN OF THE TEMPORARY SCHOOL EXPENSES TO THE TOWN, AUTHORIZING ANY TRANSFERS IN KEEPING WITH ACCOUNTING REGULATIONS AND CONTINGENT UPON THE APPROVAL OF THE TOWN TREASURER AND ACCOUNTANT; MS. CUTRER—AYE, MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

Adjournment

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MR. WATTS AND SECONDED BY MS. CUTRER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 3:36PM; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS: MS. CUTRER—AYE MR. WATTS—AYE, MS. HOUGHTON—AYE.**

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- MVRHSC – 6:00PM, Monday, July 11, 2022 – Zoom
- TSC – 3:30PM, Tuesday, July 12, 2022 – ESF – Zoom

Appendix B: Actions

- Mr. Snyder/Mr. Friedman – confer with Accountant & auditors on possible solution.

Appendix C: Documents on File:

- Agenda 6/29/22

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/Marni Lipke.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Marni Lipke – Recorder

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Houghton – TSC Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Minutes approved 8/9/22