



Article 1. This is the election of officers for the ensuing year. (Page 232) Wednesday April 29th 12 Noon – 8 PM CCC

- Article 2.** This is the time for town committees to make oral reports to the Town Meeting. The 2008 Shellfish Propagation Report is available on-line at http://www.ci.chilmark.ma.us/Pages/ChilmarkMA_Shellfish/index
- Article 3.** Asks you for permission to fund the annual operating budget of the town. These amounts are printed in the Town Report on pages 194.
- Article 4.** Is the annual contribution to a maintenance and upgrade account for the Community Center that is jointly funded by the Chilmark Town Affairs Council.
- Article 5.** We have an Island Cultural Council that pools the annual state lottery funds for all six towns. This council has asked for additional funding from the towns.
- Article 6.** This is a \$40,000 Reserve Fund that is controlled by the FINCOM to pay for emergency or unanticipated expenses during the fiscal year. It is created each year for the ensuing budget cycle.
- Article 7.** This is our annual contribution to the town's "savings account". Once put into the Stabilization Fund, it requires a two-thirds vote to spend these funds in the future. This is a practice that helps to stabilize the tax rate and maintain our high-bond rating. We try to do this every year when possible. This requires a two-thirds vote.
- Article 8.** This is our regular annual contribution to the town's "savings account" to replace old fire engines. This requires a two-thirds vote.
- Article 9.** The town has been receiving pro bono architectural services for the Middle Line Road rental units. After the two RFPs seeking a developer to build and manage the rental units as a private project were unsuccessful, the Selectmen decided to continue on with the Middle Line Road rental units as a town project. This article would fund the cost of having the current designs completed to bid-specifications suitable for use in putting the rental unit construction out to bid. It would also fund the salary of a state-mandated Project Manager for the design phase of the project.
- Article 10.** The rat control program has been used by the town around Menemsha Harbor & the Chilmark School and is available to the public on a fee-basis. All schools are mandated by the state to have an Integrated Pest Management Plan. The county program has supported the island towns and schools by providing services at no cost. The county is asking the towns to take over the funding of the Pest Management program. This year the towns are asked to fund 60% of the cost to provide this service. Next year the county may ask the towns to fully fund this service.
- Article 11.** The Dukes County Health Council created the Vineyard Health Care Access Program (VHCAP) in 1999 because of the high number of medically uninsured people on Martha's Vineyard. People who live on the Island were twice as likely as other Massachusetts residents not to have health insurance – including children. The goal of the VHCAP is to assist residents of Martha's Vineyard to obtain affordable, high-quality health care. The VHCAP is a program of Dukes County in partnership With Island Health, Inc. and is housed on county property. Funding sources include the County of Dukes County, the Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation of Massachusetts, the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services via Island Health Inc.'s Rural Health Outreach Grant, March of Dimes Massachusetts Chapter, and contributions from local funders including the Farm Neck Foundation, the Permanent Endowment Fund, the Rotary Club of Martha's Vineyard, Elder Services of Cape Cod and the Islands and private donors." This year the county has asked the towns to fund 60% of the county contribution to provide this service. Next year the county may ask the towns to fully fund this service.
- Article 12.** The Vineyard Health Care Access Program (the Access Program) provides an essential community service at no charge to the public, including helping 2,500 Island residents get affordable health insurance every year. The program needs ongoing support in order to continue serving the Island community. The Access Program had five employees and an annual budget of \$275,000. The program recently laid off one person and reduced its hours, although there is more need than ever for their services due to the difficult economic times. One third of the program's budget (\$90,000) comes from the county and towns. Since the Access Program lost grant funding this year, they are asking for additional support from the towns for the coming year. The proposed town shares for FY 2010 are as follows:

| | Original Request | Additional Request | | |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| Aquinnah | \$ 1,973 | \$ 1,616 | | |
| Chilmark | \$ 8,030 | \$ 5,577 | | |
| Edgartown | \$19,168 | \$15,997* | | |
| Oak Bluffs | \$ 7,934 | \$10,259 | | |
| Tisbury | \$ 7,934 | \$10,327 | | |
| West Tisbury | \$ 7,571 | \$ 8,196 | <u>Dukes County</u> | <u>\$35,546</u> |
| | \$52,610 | \$51,972 | | TOTAL: \$140,128 |

The original request is based on equalized valuation, calculated by the Mass Dept of Revenue based on property taxes (Towns are assessed by the County using these percentages). The additional request uses a slightly different formula, created and used by the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority: 50% based on equalized valuation and 50% based on population - this is considered a "fairer" calculation to Chilmark.

Budget status: If the Town requests are fully funded, we will get approximately half of what we need to operate the program from the County and the Towns (\$140,000 = around half of our \$275,000 annual budget). We currently have an additional \$70,000 in grants, through the end of this calendar year, 2009. We are seeking additional grant funding in order to make up our budget shortfall.

- Article 13.** This would pay for regular small scale dredging of the harbor and replacing broken pilings.
- Article 14.** This is the article we started voting at the fall special town meetings. On the advice of the state, it was moved to the Annual Town Meeting. The state has informed the towns to not expect a 100% match and that it could be as low as 29% for some towns. We won't know the actual amount until October. This does not affect our tax rate.
- Article 15.** This would spend CPA funds to continue the Community Preservation Committee's program of restoring stone walls along our public ways.
- Article 16.** This article would pay for Chilmark's share of an actuarial study conducted through the Dukes County Retirement System to establish our liability for health insurance for retirees Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB). In our case that is primarily health insurance. It is expected to render a much different number than the last study due to the radical change in the investment market over the past year.
- Article 17.** This article would affirm to the Massachusetts Great & General Court that Chilmark supports the creation of a Dukes County OPEB Trust Fund as was requested by the various municipal entities on Martha's Vineyard. This would give the towns a way to invest as a group for greater efficiency and possibly greater return on our funds.
- Article 18.** This article begins to fund the OPEB liability that was identified in our first actuarial study. The Finance Committee and Selectmen are recommending an initial \$100,000 investment. As written, this article would also allow the town to join the Dukes County OPEB Trust Fund, if it is created by Special Act or to create a Chilmark fund if necessary.
- Article 19.** The town is party to a four-town multi-year road paving contract. The contract calls for an escalation factor, set by the Mass Highway Department, on the oil used to make asphalt. When a price was obtained from the contractor for paving a mile of North Road last year, it did not include the escalation factor. After the pavement was laid, the town was presented with a bill for the escalation clause based on the current (and then high) price of oil.
- Article 20.** If the town accepts the provisions of this state law, it would give the assessors and tax collector the ability to defer excise tax for National Guard, reservists, and their dependents.
- Article 21.** If the town adopted the provisions of this state law it would allow the Selectmen to draft rules to establish a system by which property owners over 60 years of age could volunteer to provide services to the town in exchange for a reduction in their local tax bill. This vote does not create that system, it would only authorize the Selectmen to work on it and then hold a public hearing to establish the rules.
- Article 22.** This zoning article would address the noise issues associated with air conditioning systems, generators, swimming pool filter/heating systems and other mechanical systems accessory to a dwelling.
- Article 23.** This zoning article would completely change how we control windmills and wind turbines. It would also control the systems and structures used in connection with windmills and wind turbines.