



Article 1. This is the election of officers for the ensuing year. (Page 216) Wednesday April 30th 12 Noon – 8 PM CCC

There are five open offices on the ballot: Planning Board, Finance Advisory Committee, Fence Viewer, and Surveyor of Wood, Lumber & Bark. Questions 1 & 2 ask if the Town shall override Proposition 2 ½ for education budgets.

Article 2. This is the time for town committees to make oral reports to the Town Meeting. Their written reports are printed in your 2013 Chilmark Town Report which has a bright blue cover this year.

Article 3. This asks for your permission to fund the annual operating budget of the town. These amounts are printed in the Town Report on pages 171 – 196. The Education budget (Dept. 300) if approved by town meeting, is subject to a majority vote at the polls on Wednesday for two overrides. The increase to the MV Commission annual assessment was not recommended by the Finance Advisory Committee.

The Harbor Master will be making an **amendment to increase the Harbor salary budget by \$6,500** that he had requested reduced during the budget process. It will fund the second 40 hr/week Assistant Wharfinger for 10 weeks this summer.

Article 4. This is our annual contribution to a maintenance and upgrade account for the Community Center that is jointly funded by the Chilmark Town Affairs Council in lieu of rent for the summer program.

Article 5. 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 April at ATM for the ensuing budget cycle starting July 1st.

Article 6. 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. It is funded by the towns using the 50% population & 50% Equalized Valuation formula requested by Chilmark.

Article 7. This is our annual contribution to the Town's general savings account for major expenses. It has been used for capping the landfill, building projects, and roads. Once put into the Stabilization Fund, a two-thirds vote is required to spend these funds. This is a practice that helps to stabilize the tax rate and maintain our high (AAA) bond rating.

This practice has been followed for many years; however the Selectmen, FINCOM and Financial Team have recently incorporated this practice into a formal policy encompassing capital planning and debt service. Using the capital-related expenditures and debt service costs from Fiscal Year 2014 as an aggregate base line, the new policy strives to maintain this level of annual expense as our guide for a "maintenance of effort" as the town goes forward. It has created a framework inside which we will manage new expenditure requests and protect our town's fiscal health. This article requires a two-thirds vote.

Article 8. This is our regular annual contribution to the town's savings account to replace old fire engines as part of the capital plan framework. This requires a two-thirds vote.

Article 9. This is a new Stabilization Fund. In the past, voters have been asked to provide Chilmark's 1/3 share to purchase a new ambulance in one warrant article, such as the article last ATM. The Tri Town Ambulance has developed a 15 year capital plan for their vehicles. The next ambulance replacement is planned for 2015. It was decided to spread this expected periodic-cost out over time as part of our new capital planning "maintenance of effort" framework for FY 2015. This requires a two-thirds vote.

Article 10. A number of small repairs were requested by the Town Custodian and Fire Chief. They include replacing a rotten garage door and trim/gutter at the Cross Road Fire Station, reshingling the roofs on the Community Center bathroom and Police Station's old kindergarten room. This is included in the capital plan framework for FY2015.

Article 11. This would replace a pump that proved useful at the 2010 Menemsha Fire and to pump out sinking boats.

- Article 12.** A UTV is a cross between an ATV, a golf cart and a tiny pickup truck. It will provide transportation for first responders and patients where our trucks cannot. They are in use around the island as maintenance and rescue vehicles for conservation groups and public safety agencies. Emergencies on our south beaches have included near drownings and cardiac arrest. This UTV will allow first responders to provide CPR and life-saving care while transporting beach rescue patients. It will also be used for general Search & Rescue and launching the Fire Department PWC for south shore water rescues.
- Article 13.** This started as an article to purchase new software and hardware for the Beach and Harbor departments and grew to include a cashbook program. We will rebuild or replace four PCs immediately and go to the market to purchase new software in the fall. We may expand this project at the Fall Special Town Meeting to include all town permits.
- Article 14.** **We need to amend this to be “FY2015”.** This is the article we started voting on at the fall special town meetings, and on the advice of the state, it was moved to the Annual Town Meeting every year. It allows the Town Meeting to access the CPA funds collected in the fiscal year, rather than delaying that access by a year. It is based on the Community Preservation Committee’s estimate for FY 2015. This does not affect our tax rate.
- Article 15.** This would spend CPA funds to restore gravestones at the town cemetery. It will be under the supervision of the Historical & Cemetery Commissioners.
- Article 16.** This would spend CPA funds to participate in the restoration of a Master Plan recognized historic resource.
- Article 17.** This would spend CPA funds to pay a share using the 50% population & 50% Equalized Valuation formula. This is part of a \$2 ½ million project.
- Article 18.** This would spend CPA funds to pay Chilmark’s share using the 50% population & 50% Equalized Valuation formula.
- Article 19.** This would spend CPA funds to pay Chilmark’s share using the 50% population & 50% Equalized Valuation formula. This is part of an \$11 million project.
- Article 20.** This would spend CPA funds to participate in affordable housing as a regional effort. This is our second investment in affordable rentals in Vineyard Haven.
- Article 21.** This is the annual cost for Chilmark to participate in the special response team, the drug task force and other island wide cooperative law enforcement efforts.
- Article 22.** Last year the explanation was “The police department has a 2011 Ford Expedition as a marked patrol unit, a 2010 Ford Explorer, and 2005 & 2006 Ford Crown Victoria marked police cruisers. The two sedans have approximately 150,000 miles on each and are at the end of their useful lives. This article would replace one of them.” This year we are replacing the other sedan.
- Article 23.** This experiment would use Ribbed Mussels and Oysters as a biological means of controlling water quality in the Chilmark Pond system. It could lead to harvestable Oysters, or other species, in the future.
- Article 24.** This uses “free cash” to pay for a portion of the FY2015 operating budget. The effect is to reduce the tax rate you would otherwise be paying. It is not done often as it uses non-recurring revenue to pay for recurring costs.
- Article 25.** This \$7,882.62 would be used as part of the Selectmen’s plan to expand the operation of a July & August shuttle bus from the Tabor House landfill cap parking lot to Menemsha. The existing Route 12 bus would operate until after sunset instead of ending at 5 PM each day.
- Article 26.** This would fund Chilmark’s share, using the 50/50 formula, of a contract for regional adult education programs that would be issued by the All Island School Committee.
- Article 27.** This home rule petition would continue the town’s prohibition against the dumping of poisons into Squibnocket Pond. It is a parallel effort to our appeal of the Parker, et al. lawsuit against the town’s protection of this public coastal resource.

Article 28.

This article would continue efforts on a plan to expand the Squibnocket beach by approximately 10 acres and extend the current beach lease term 99 years (from the date of a new lease). This has been planned in cooperation with the Squibnocket Farm Association, Vineyard Open Land Foundation, and other stake holders. It would not approve a parking lot design or location at this time. It does not affect the rights of the SFA to design access to their homes. It would require additional public meetings and a Special Town Meeting in October to move forward with any specific actions.

Article 29.

The earlier town line was located further to the West where the Menemsha Creek entered the Bight, nearer the corner of West Basin and Lobsterville roads. It was moved so that the town line was in the water between Gay Head and Chilmark when the channel migrated to the East. Circa 1900 the state, and then the Army Corps, dredged the new channel and stabilized in its current position. This created a state owned strip of land connecting North Road to the area of the filled dock and coast guard boathouse. Chapter 485 of the Acts of 1965 transferred “so much of the land at Menemsha located along the southwesterly side of Menemsha Basin and running along the northwesterly side of Menemsha Creek, as lies within the said respective towns, being the land excepted from the original petition under Land Court Case no. 7706 because of its status as lands of the commonwealth” it further stipulated that “The aforesaid land at Menemsha authorized to be conveyed to the towns of Gay Head and Chilmark shall be reserved for and made available for commercial fishermen and in no event be sold or conveyed.”

The two towns have managed this area for commercial fishermen ever since. In 1996 after a disagreement about what constituted commercial fishing, the towns signed the Menemsha Creek Agreement. This formalized the management of the Creek Lots by the two towns. The town line in Menemsha goes diagonally across Boathouse Road twice and cuts through three fishing shacks. While the two towns have managed the Creek Lots successfully for commercial fishermen for almost 50 years, the Aquinnah Assistant Assessor has recently raised questions about how the towns can tax and assess fishing shacks that straddle town lines and a legal battle has been fought in court over the oldest fishing shack in Menemsha. The law suit involves lot 15(A). It and lots 4, 5, 6 & 7 straddle the town line. There are three buildings that straddle the line today. **(Please see the next page for a map.)**

If you and the Aquinnah Annual Town Meeting approve this article, we will simplify the situation for the future.

Article 30.

This is a regional approach to fertilizer impacts to our coastal ponds and groundwater. We have a limited time window to either adopt these regulations tailored to our need, or the new state regulations with take effect.

Thank you for attending the 2014 Annual Town Meeting!

If you would like to serve on a town committee, please write the Board of Selectmen. If your appointment to a committee is expiring this year, please write the Selectmen's Office with a request to be reappointed ASAP.

They will be making appointments May 6th for the ensuing year.