

December 22, 2011

**Notice of January 3, 2012 Vote of Chilmark Board of Selectmen**

On January 3, 2012, the Chilmark selectmen will vote on whether or not to accept changes to Mass General Laws Chapter 32B, Sections 21-23. This municipal health care reform was voted by the state in Chapter 69 of the Acts of 2011. ***The new legislation makes no changes to health plans for retirees over 65 on medicare supplemental plans.***

Dear Subscriber:

Previously Chapter 32B made it difficult for towns to make health benefit changes because it required a complicated bargaining process. This new legislation creates an expedited bargaining process.

It also gives Joint Purchase Groups like the Cape Cod Municipal Health Group the authority to make plan changes to increase co-pays and deductibles to the level of the state's Group Insurance Commission (GIC).

The Chilmark selectmen were opposed to these changes because the higher co-pays and annual deductible will increase costs for the employees. But failure to make these changes could result in forcing the town into state mandated membership in the GIC.

The annual deductible and higher co-pays will mean the new plans will have lower premiums. But the majority of the savings will go to the town because the town pays 75% of the premiums. The new legislation requires, in the first year, that 25% of the savings be shared with the employees.

The savings will be used to mitigate the impact on subscribers. The legislation creates two committees that will develop the "Mitigation Proposal".

**Public Employee Committee (PEC):**

A retiree represent chosen by the Massachusetts Retired State, County and Municipal Employees Association and a representative from each Collective Bargaining Unit

**Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC):**

Eight members: seven representing employees and one retiree chosen by the selectmen

If you have any questions or comments please contact me at [treasurer@chilmarkma.gov](mailto:treasurer@chilmarkma.gov) or Tim Carroll at [execsec@chilmarkma.gov](mailto:execsec@chilmarkma.gov).

Regards,

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