Truro Taxation Aid Committee Minutes, October 30, 2024 10:00 am, Truro Town Hall 24 Town Hall Road Truro, MA 02666

Present: Annie Ditachio, Alex Lessin, Jon Nahas, Jennifer Shannon, and Barbara Wood. Susan Areson, the select board liaison to the TAC committee also attended.

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

The treasurer provided an update on the balance in the Truro Elderly and Disabled Fund (the Fund). Recent donations of \$2819 and interest of approximately \$500 brought the Fund balance to approximately \$14,000.

The committee discussed the decline in the number of applications. Beginning with FY 2023, applicants are required to apply for a residential exemption and to avail themselves of exemptions offered by the board of assessors <u>before</u> being considered for the Fund. The committee discussed the following questions?

- As eligible citizens use the programs offered by the board of assessors, will there continue to be a need for the Fund?
- What action is required to close the program as it was approved at the Truro Town Meeting?
- What are the MA regulations on using the leftover funds if the Fund is discontinued?
- Could Clause 18 of the tax exemption programs be used for financial hardship?

The committee directed the treasurer to determine what would be required to discontinue the Fund, and to determine steps required to remove the Fund donation option on Truro tax bills starting in the second half of 2025 and 2026. Continued discussion of the Fund's future will occur after the 2025 applications are received.

The committee voted to increase the income threshold on the FY2025 application by 5% to match the increase in the consumer price index.

Meeting adjourned at 11:12 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara B. Wood

