

## *Finance Committee Minutes August 8, 2006*

Those Present: Sharon Estrella, Al DeVito, Skip Manter, Brian Athearn, Richard Knabel  
Guests: Bruce Stone, Town Accountant and Jim Osmundsen, filming for MVTV

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

A motion was made to approve a Reserve Fund transfer for streetlights for \$368.25. The motion was seconded and opened for discussion. The motion passed with 5 in favor and none opposed.

The first order of business was to elect a new Chair of the Finance Committee. Sharon Estrella was thanked for her two years serving as chair.

A motion was made to nominate Al DeVito as the new Chairman of the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded and passed with 4 in favor and one abstaining.

A motion was made to nominate Skip Manter as Vice-Chairman of the Finance Committee. The motion was seconded and passed with 4 in favor and 1 abstaining.

The draft of the letter to Roxanne Ackerman, Chair of the UIRSD, was discussed. This is a letter requesting the return of the cherry sheet excess to the towns before the tax rate is set. Al will reword a part of this letter before it is sent out.

A motion was made to authorize the chair of the Finance Committee to send a letter on behalf of the Finance Committee to the UIRSD Committee requesting that the cherry sheet revenue be returned to the towns. The motion was seconded and passed with all in favor.

Richard Knabel's comments on the proposed amendment to 603 CMR 41.00 Regional School District were discussed. This amendment would make the "wealth model" the default modes for budgeting for regional school districts in the state. Richard read a part of the amendment and stated his many objections to it. He will write a draft letter to the State Board of Education and would like to have the opportunity for the committee to meet with Mr. O'Leary and Mr. Turkington to discuss this amendment. If this amendment were passed, the district's budget could be allocated based on the vote of two of the three towns; it is possible that West Tisbury would have no say in the budget. This amendment runs counter to the one town one vote principle and discriminates against larger towns.

A letter will be sent to the UIRSD and the High School letting them know what the Finance Committee wants the increase to be for this year's budget. We will prepare a draft of this letter for discussion at our next meeting. Bruce Stone was asked to prepare some information to aid us in determining what the increase, if any should be.

August 21<sup>st</sup> is the next meeting of the UIRSD. At that time a joint meeting of the Selectmen of the three towns is scheduled. Members of this committee should try to attend that meeting.

The West Tisbury Space needs progress report #1 was handed out.

Mr. Knabel indicated that, when we review the budgets, he will be especially interested in energy costs, especially for the West Tisbury School.

The next meeting will be September 12, at the fire station.

A motion was made to adjourn at 5:10 PM. Motion seconded and passed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bonnie Eldridge