

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

April 3, 2007

Those Present: Al DeVito - chair, Sharon Estrella, Richard Knabel, Skip Manter and Brian Athearn.

Guests: Bruce Stone, Town Accountant; Glenn Hearn and John Early, Selectmen; Jennifer Rand, Executive Secretary; Mrs. Janice Manter, Mrs. Katherine DeVito and Diane Powers.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

Town Meeting Procedure:

FinCom members will address articles they have not approved, including the town budget, the school budget, the Island Council on Aging budget and the recommendation to decrease COLA from 3.8% to 3%. Richard will amend article 10. Al will speak to the withdrawal article.

Skipper's 18 years:

Skipper Manter, this being his last meeting as a member of the FinCom, reviewed his 18 years on the committee. In his remarks he noted the changes over the years and his hopes for the future. From his perspective the job of the FinCom is to gather information, advise the voters, the let them decide. He suggested that the FinCom have an understanding of what the tax bill means and to look not only at the numbers, but also at what drives the numbers. He commented that other towns have more revenue opportunities, but that West Tisbury has a lot of conservation land and should be proud of that.

Minutes:

With a motion from Richard and a second from Skip the minutes of March 27 were approved 5-0.

Richard discussed the letter he has written to the Gazette in response to the Rachel Orr article. The committee made recommendations for clarification. Richard will submit the letter on behalf of the committee.

Nancy will make 300 copies of the two brochures and the recommendations for the April 10 Annual Town Meeting.

Bruce noted that he had received a letter from the state informing him of the return of \$160k to E&D from the school. A date was not specified.

At the close of the meeting, committee members expressed their gratitude to Skipper for his 18 years of dedicated service.

There being no other business, a motion for adjournment was made and seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Rogers, Administrative Clerk