

Minutes
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting – October 7, 2008
at Public Safety Building

Present: Members S. Estrella, A. DeVito, Ann Nelson, G. Orcutt. Also present: B. Stone, Town Accountant.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m. Mr. DeVito chaired the meeting and acted as secretary.

There was discussion of the request by Tri-Town ambulance to begin our 2009 meetings at 4:00 p.m. and end by 6:30 p.m. Some members of the committee would find it difficult to arrive by 4. Limiting the meeting to 2 ½ hours has the potential to limit discussion. The consensus was to deny the request of Tri-Town. Mr. DeVito will inform them of our decision.

Ann and Greg will be attending the Association of Town Finance Committees in Westford on November 1. Al will forward the paperwork to Bruce Stone.

The committee felt that there is a need to provide guidelines for Town departments in setting their budgets. These guidelines should be provided as soon as possible. Since we are working with the Selectmen in revising the budget process, Mr. DeVito will schedule a meeting with them to discuss this issue.

Al reported on budget meetings with the superintendent and the high school. Both budgets are up about 5%, the superintendent's increase is almost all personnel. Greg will distribute copies of the budgets of the superintendent and the high school. We decided not to send an advisory letter to the schools.

We are planning on a citizens' forum in January or early February. Detailed planning will begin at our next meeting. Greg will have Plum TV film it.

Dates to keep in mind:

All-Island Finance Committee – October 14 at 4:30 at Tisbury Senior Center. Topic – discuss new format of school budgets.

High School Budget – 10/23 at 8am and, very likely, 11/3 at 6pm, 11/13 at 8am, 11/24 at 6pm, 12/1 at 6pm to certify it.

Superintendent's Budget – 10/29 at 6

UIRSD Budget – 10/16 at 7pm at WT, 11/13 at CH at 7, 12/4 at WT at 7

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.