

Minutes
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
September 9, 2008

Present: Al DeVito - chair, Sharon Estrella, Brian Athearn, Ann Nelson and Greg Orcutt.
Guests: Skipper Manter, Selectman.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Survey/Marketing:

Ann suggested staying with the forum format, having one soon and having more than one. She would like Bruce to explain what would happen with any given %increase. Sharon would like to have one in November after tax bills are received to explain what the concerns are - CPA, school budget, economy, Town Hall, decreasing enrollment, etc. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Mention was made of the CPA money drying up. It started at 100% and is now at 60%. The town committed to participate for five years and is in the fourth year at present. It is time to ask the voters if they want to continue at a lower percentage.

How would this affect the Town Hall renovation? The CPA has app. \$800,000. \$500,000 has been requested, but the entire amount could be earmarked for the renovation.

Sharon noted that last year the HS spent \$250,000 from E&D and wondered if that amount is added to the budget for next year. Skipper responded that it would not and is in essence a slush fund. To include it in the budget would require recertifying the budget and reassessing the towns.

BOS Meeting:

There will be a meeting on September 17 with the Finance Committee and the Selectmen to renew discussions of the budget process.

UIRSD Budget:

Ann has reviewed a new format given to the FinCom for categorizing the budget items. She feels if give more info than has been available before. 44% of the budget is for instructional costs and SPED programs. Of that, 7% is for SPED with 13.6% of all teachers involved in SPED programming. A questioned was raised concerning the possibility of hidden for SPED under nursing/support personnel and guidance.

Greg would like to know what costs are mandated by the state and what is the dollar of these costs.

Sharon stated that there are app. 290 students in WT and 37 in Chilmark.

Al announced that there sll be an All-Island FinComs meeting Wednesday, Sept. 10 at 4:30 at the Tisbury Senior Center to try to agree on a format. They would then go to the Superintendent to inform him that all will use the same format.

MVRHS Budget:

There is a budget meeting on Friday, October 10. Al suggested that it would be good to go to more than one of these meetings and that as many members as possible should go.

Minutes:

Minutes of the July 8 and August 12 (with corrections) were approved 5-0.

Correspondence/dates:

On Saturday, November 1 there will be a seminar in Westford for the Association of Finance Committees. Attendance will be paid for from the FinCom budget.

Heidi Schultz, former Town Clerk, sent a letter (copied to the BoS) suggesting that a budget for repair and maintenance be created. This initiated a discussion about the need for a maintenance schedule for all town buildings. This should be determined by someone qualified in building inspection and should then be presented to the CIC for development of a maintenance schedule.

The next meeting is Tuesday, October 14, 4:30pm.

There being no other business, a motion for adjournment was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:43pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Rogers, Administrative Clerk