

Minutes
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting – November 6, 2008
at Public Safety Building

Present: Members S. Estrella, A. DeVito, Ann Nelson, B. Athearn. Also present: B. Stone, Town Accountant, David Merry, John Powers, Don Hatch, Skipper Manter, Richard Knabel, Beth Kramer.

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Mr. DeVito chaired the meeting and acted as secretary.

The Refuse District came before the Committee to present their preliminary budget. Non-personnel expenses have not increased. Personnel costs have increased by 4%, the COLA. The committee noted that retirees are not given the option to switch to Medicare upon reaching age 65. This is costly to the district and the retiree. The district will explore this issue further.

The Committee voted to approve a request to transfer funds from the Reserve Fund to Veterans' Benefits as there is now a veteran in West Tisbury who requires veteran's benefits. It is expected that the budget for FY2010 will reflect the need for these funds in the new fiscal year.

The impact on the FY2010 budget of the current economic situation was discussed. It was agreed that the Finance Committee will join the Selectmen at their next meeting to discuss the approach to regional entities. It was also agreed that Mr. Knabel would draft a letter to be sent to these agencies and Mr. DeVito was authorized to approve this letter.

The librarian appeared before the Committee to alert it to a possible need for reserve funds in early 2009 because of a medical condition of an employee.

We discussed the upcoming forum and decided to hold it in late February/early March. We will draw up detailed plans at our next meeting.

A motion was made to allow the Chair to prepare and submit the Committee's budget for FY2010 as the budget is due December 1. The motion passed. The budget will be reconsidered at our December meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.