

Minutes
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
January 27, 2009
Public Safety Building

Present: Al DeVito - chair, Sharon Estrella, Brian Athearn and Greg Orcutt.

Guests: Bruce Stone, Town Accountant; Mark London, Jeff Wooden and Andrew Woodruff, MV Commission; Bruce Keep and Peggy Stone, Parks & Recreation Committee; Jen Rand, Executive Secretary.

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

MV Commission #177:

Mark London gave an explanation of the process for salary increases for MVC employees. The MVC is trying to align its payroll practices with that of the towns. He noted that the towns have differing payroll packages that may include COLA, steps, merit and longevity, whereas the MVC has only COLA and merit. MVC employees are limited to a 4% raise - some town employees might get as much as 9%.

Brian, seconded by Sharon, made a motion to preliminarily approve the MV Commission budget. The motion passed 4-0.

Parks and Recreation #620:

Level funded. Greg, seconded by Brian, made a motion to preliminarily approve the Parks and Recreation budget. The motion passed 4-0.

Tennis Courts #630:

The tennis fee revenue has increased due to the sale of keys and t-shirts. Greg, seconded by Brian, made a motion to preliminarily approve the Tennis Courts budget. The motion passed 4-0.

Beaches #632:

The increase in personal services is due to the fact that Labor Day will be six days later in FY10. Greg, seconded by Sharon, made a motion to preliminarily approve the Beaches budget. The motion passed 4-0.

Swim Instruction #635:

There is no fee for participants in this program. Greg, seconded by Brian, made a motion to preliminarily approve the Swim Instruction budget. The motion passed 4-0.

Winter Recreation #640:

Sharon questioned the necessity of a fee for a town program. Peggy explained the fee is used towards ice time at the arena, as well as the rental of the Ag Hall and the WT church. Brian, seconded by Greg, made a motion to preliminarily approve the Winter Recreation budget. The motion passed 3-0-1, Sharon abstaining.

Other Business:

Chief Toomey has requested rescheduling her budget meeting due to an event she would like to attend on that day. Since it would be difficult to reschedule, it was decided to leave it as is, Monday, February 9.

Jen Rand reported that the BoS is split on a decision to co-sponsor an article for a written ballot at town meetings. No vote was taken and further discussion with the FinCom will take place. The BoS will, however, co-sponsor the April 4 forum. Kathy Logue will participate in the forum.

Brian attended the All Island FinCom meeting and reported that a letter will be sent to all public committees and boards requesting there be a 0% COLA for FY10. Vineyard Haven and Oak Bluffs have already adopted this. Al commented that he has written a letter to Don Hatch (MV Refuse District) asking the same. Al's letter to Dr. Weiss, as emailed to FinCom members, was approved. Al will follow the letter with a phone call.

Minutes:

Minutes of the January 20 meeting were approved with additions.

Bruce handed out a sheet to illuminate the possible effects of Governor Patrick's Ch. 9 cuts in the state budget. The governor has promised no cuts this year or next to Ch. 70 (school funding). Cuts will be made to Lottery Aid and Additional Assistance. Gov. Patrick is proposing a 1% increase in meal/hotel taxes to restore local aid.

The next meeting is Tuesday, February 3, 2009, 4:30pm at the Howes House.

There being no other business, a motion for adjournment was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Rogers, Administrative Clerk