

Minutes
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
March 17, 2009
Public Safety Building

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

Guests: Kathy Logue, Town Treasurer; Kristina West, Town Assessor; Dr. James Weiss, MV Schools Supt.; Rich Olsen, Highway Supt.; Manny Estrella, Fire Chief; David Vigneault, Dukes County Regional Housing Authority; Skipper Manter and Richard Knabel, BoS.

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

This meeting was scheduled to review warrant articles for FinCom recommendation. Numbers in the final warrant might differ from those below.

Article 9:

To appropriate \$9,930 from free cash to upgrade town GIS maps.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 37:

To raise and appropriate \$16,390, as well as make transfers of \$7,610, for a valuation update of real and personal property.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 44:

To transfer \$75,000 to the OPEB Stabilization Fund.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 46:

To petition the General Court to approve Dukes County employers to establish a pooled OPEB Trust Fund.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 4:

To raise and appropriate necessary funds to defray town expenses for FY10.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 5:

To authorize expenditure of money necessary to defray town capital expenses for FY10. To transfer \$30,000 from free cash for maintenance of Lambert's Cove Road bridge. Kathy explained that the Capital Improvements Committee hopes to adopt a plan to group all capital improvement articles into one article which would be placed immediately after the budget article, rather than separate articles throughout the warrant. Individual items could be amended within the article, but the article would then be voted on as one. This would allow the voters to see a cohesive plan.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 10:

To transfer \$6,500 to replenish funds spent to cut down dead trees.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 11:

To expend dog license fees to support the WT library.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 15:

To appropriate \$1,299.88 from free funds to pay unpaid bills to Lawrence Lynch Corp.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 36:

To reauthorize revolving accounts. Mass. G.L. requires annual authorization.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 43:

To transfer \$2,570 from Town Clerk Elected Official Salary line to Town Clerk Personal Services line to provide hiring training and/or assistance for the new Town Clerk after election.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 45:

To appropriate \$270,000 from free cash to reduce tax levy.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 8:

To authorize BoS to grant conservation restriction on seven unbuildable lots in Stoney Hill Farms to be held for affordable housing purposes.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 2-1.

Article 18:

To vote to petition the Mass. General Court to enact special legislation to sell or lease the present Superintendent's office at 4 Pine St. as the first step towards moving the office. This article needs the support of all six towns.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 5:

Rich Olsen addressed this article for maintenance of the Lambert's Cove Road bridge, though already voted on in response to Kathy Logue's earlier presentation.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 16:

To appropriate \$61,967 for reconstruction work on town roads. This amount will be reimbursed by the state.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 19:

To transfer \$20,000 from Fire Dept. FY09 Personnel Service line to Fire Dept. FY09 Expense line.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 39:

To establish a Fire Equipment Stabilization Fund and to transfer \$75,000 to said fund.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 7:

To authorize Treasurer and/or Collector to enter into Compensating Balance Agreements during FY10.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

Article 17:

To close the warrant two weeks earlier (first Tuesday in February) to allow more time for review. No action taken.

Article 25:

To have elected Town clerk become an appointed Town Clerk effective April 15, 2010. Skipper explained this came as a recommendation of the fiscal management team to allow the position to be filled from someone out of town. They are also considering the treasurer and tax collector positions. This is being considered to provide for the hiring of the best-qualified person.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 2-1.

Minutes:

Minutes of the February 24 meeting were approved, with corrections, by a vote of 2-0-1. Minutes of the March 3 and 10 meetings were approved by a vote of 3-0.

Other business:

Al reported conversations with senior citizens who are unable to drive at night to get to the town meeting. Skipper suggested the Council on Aging might be able to help. Greg will contact the VTA to see if they can assist.

With the meeting running ahead of schedule, a recess was called at 5:55 to await Mr. Vigneault. The meeting reconvened at 6:13.

Article 13:

To raise \$33,710 to fund WT share of admin. expenses of the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority in FY10. Al questioned the 5.5% worker's comp expense. Mr. Vigneault will look into this and respond to Al. He will also clarify the interest expense of \$4,500.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Sharon to recommend the article. The motion passed 3-0.

The next meeting is Tuesday, March 24, 2009, 4:30pm at the Public Safety Building.

There being no other business, a motion for adjournment was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:28pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Rogers, Administrative Clerk