

Minutes
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
February 15, 2011
Public Safety Building

Present: Sharon Estrella - chair, Al DeVito, Greg Orcutt , Jonathan Revere and Joe Gervais. Katherine Triantafillou, pending member.

Guests: Bruce Stone, Town Accountant; Richard Knabel, Skipper Manter and Cynthia Mitchell, BoS; Jen Rand, Executive Secretary; Tara Whiting, Town Clerk; Brent Taylor, Tax Collector; Peggy Stone and Cheryl Lowe, Park & Rec.; Beth Kramer, Library; Rhonda Conley, Jim Powell and Ernie Mendenhall, Affordable Housing; Maria MacFarland, Conservation Commission and Personnel; Norman Perry, Personnel; David Vigneault, DCRHA.

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

Town Clerk #161

Al questioned Tara on the 5% increase in her wages. Bruce explained that elected town officials can do as they see fit in terms of a raise. Most take 1-2%. Tara can do as she wishes. Tara did not realize she had an option and will work it out with Bruce.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Greg, to preliminarily approve the Town Clerk budget. The motion passed 4-0-1.

Elections #162

Level funded. Greg made a motion, seconded by Jonathan, to preliminarily approve the Elections budget. The motion passed 5-0.

Registrars #163

Level funded. Al made a motion, seconded by Jonathan, to preliminarily approve the Registrars budget. The motion passed 5-0.

Tax Collector #146

The increase in this budget reflects a correction for underestimating line #5300 Professional & Technical Services in FY11. More was spent in FY10 than anticipated. This expense is ultimately paid by the taxpayer, but must be shown on this line.

Brent is at the top level. She receives longevity and would elect to take a 1% COLA, if COLA is approved.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Al, to preliminarily approve the Tax Collector budget. The motion passed 5-0.

Other Business

While awaiting other departments, the meeting dealt with other business.

Al entered into the record, by reading, a letter he had written to be sent to Dr. Weiss, the UIRSD and to both papers. Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Joe, to approve sending the letter, including the signatures of the entire committee. The motion passed 5-0.

Greg entered into record, by reading, a letter he had written to be sent to the papers to rectify misinformation stemming from the January 18 meeting with the UIRSD. This, too, received approval to be sent to both papers.

Parks & Recreation #620

Greg asked for clarification on the personal services additional hours. Cheryl explained that they were asking for an additional two hours a week for the board administrator. She noted that these hours were being worked, but had been transferred from Winter Recreation. Adding the hours would prevent having to transfer from other budgets at the end of the fiscal year. After comparing the Park & Rec. budget to the Winter Recreation budget it was not clear how this would work. Greg asked that Peggy and Cheryl come back with a clearer report of how this would happen without a 31.3% increase.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Jonathan, to not preliminarily approve the Parks & Rec. budget. The motion passed 5-0.

Tennis #630

The increase to Repairs & Maintenance #5240 is for the painting of the shed and for cleaning the courts.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Greg, to preliminarily approve the Tennis budget. The motion passed 5-0.

Beaches #632

In answer to Greg's question regarding the increase in Lifeguard salaries from \$29,274 to \$38,458, Peggy explained the increase reflected step progress. Bruce added that the budget is set for everyday (67 days from July 1 to Labor Day), but lifeguards are not actually paid for rainy days. Four lifeguards work 7-hour days, totally 196 hours a week.

Line #5780 Other Unclassified Items has doubled from \$1,500 to \$3,000. This is needed to install snow fencing to protect the dunes, maintenance to the walkway, and signs.

Joe wondered if the possibility of reducing the number of lifeguards had ever been discussed. Cheryl said it had been discussed at the last committee meeting and that she would bring it up at their next meeting on March 2.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Joe, to hold preliminarily approval until after the Park & Rec. meeting on March 2. The motion passed 5-0.

Swim Instruction #635

Level funded.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Joe, to preliminarily approve the Swim Instruction budget. The motion passed 5-0.

Winter Recreation #640

Bruce commented that this budget had no bearing on the Park & Rec. #620 budget, or vice versa. Peggy explained that line #5270 Rental & Leases is down \$1,120 because she had hoped to have lessons at the Mansion House, but that will not be happening.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Al, to preliminarily approve the Winter Recreation budget. The motion passed 5-0.

Town Grounds #650

Line #5240 Repairs & Maintenance Services, doubled from \$2,000 to \$4,000, is needed for raking and mowing of the playground and the baseball field. Sharon informed Peggy that she has seen a lot of poison ivy at the baseball field and hopes that will be taken care of.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Greg, to preliminarily approve the Town Grounds budget. The motion passed 5-0.

Library #610

Beth is requesting a new, halftime, non-benefited position. She has cut expenses to offset the new position. She noted that library use has increased substantially as people are cutting back on home Internet services and entertainments. The Library Friends assist with unbudgeted expenses such as time required for meetings, etc.

Greg wondered why the books purchase expense had been lowered by \$15,000. Beth explained that the state has lowered its book purchase requirement due to the present financial climate.

AL made a motion, seconded by Jonathan, to preliminarily approve the Library budget. The motion passed 5-0.

Affordable Housing #179

Legal Services has been increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Jim Powell explained that this line has always been under budgeted and that this is a more realistic amount. That in fact, given present growth, it might be conservative.

Joe made a motion, seconded by Al, to preliminarily approve the Affordable Housing budget. The motion passed 4-0-1.

Conservation Commission #171

Personal Services is up due to step/longevity. Otherwise, level funded.

Al made a motion, seconded by Greg, to preliminarily approve the Conservation Commission budget. The motion passed 5-0.

Personnel #152

Increase is due to next step level. Expenses are down.

Sharon asked if a COLA had been set. Maria responded that a 1% COLA was being recommended.

AL made a motion, seconded by Greg, to preliminarily approve the Personnel budget. The motion passed 5-0.

Reserve Fund Transfer

Jen requested a reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$852 to pay the insurance deductible for a police department lawsuit that had been settled.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Joe, to approve the request for transfer of \$852. The motion passed 5-0.

Minutes

Minutes of the February 8 meeting were approved, with corrections.

Health Access Art. 24/25

Sarah Kuh explained that articles 24 & 25 reflect an adjustment to accomplish the 50/50 formula. Bruce noted that the 50/50 formula was based on property value, not population. Jonathan commented that the Health Access program provides a great service.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Greg, to recommend articles 24 & 25. The motion passed 5-0.

DCRHA Art. 9

David Vigneault explained the increases to the DCRHA budget reflect insurance and taxes increases.

Joe made a motion, seconded by Al, to recommend article 9. The motion passed 5-0.

Future meetings

Tuesday, February 22, 4:30 at the Public Safety Building and Wednesday, February 23, 4:30 at the Howes House.

There being no other business, a motion for adjournment was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:37pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Rogers, Administrative Clerk