

**Approved 2/21/18**  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**ALL ISLAND SELECTMENS MEETING**  
**Thursday, February 1, 2018, 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 pm**

**Present:** Selectmen Skipper Manter, Cindy Mitchell, Kent Healy, Pam Thors

**Also Present:** Richard Saltzberg – MV Times, Aquinnah BOS: Julianne Vanderhoop, Gary J. Healy, Jim Newman, Jeffrey Madison Town Administrator, Chilmark BOS: James Malkin, Bill Rossi, Warren Doty, WT BOS Cynthia Mitchell, Kent Healy, J. Skipper Manter, Amy Tierney, Superintendent's Office, Kate Devane – UIRSD School Committee

Cindy opened the meeting at 3:00pm. She proposed to postpone Annual Town Meeting, (ATM), 2018 action on the Up-Island Regional School District, (UIRSD), budget formula. She stated that the subcommittee had hoped to have a formula outlined to present at ATM, but the resources are not presently available to give a thorough technical analysis of the proposed budgeting options. She asked that all agree that after the ATM season, that the subcommittee meet and then the larger group meet to resolve the issue before the summer in time for the necessary voting to take place at Special Town Meetings in the fall.

Rob Hannemann reviewed his analysis of the budget formula alternatives, (see attachment #1), stating that he believes simplicity to be very important in this process. He stated that he analyzed a few of the proposals but had not yet vetted the formulas through the Town Accountants because it is budget season. He also reviewed the Assessment Alternatives Summary, (see attachment #2), that had been analyzed by West Tisbury Town Accountant, Bruce Stone.

He stated that under the current formula, Chilmark pays much more than their fair share based on the cost per student model and Aquinnah pays more than West Tisbury as well. He said that the committee feels that more research is required to come up with a "fair" resolution.

A member of the Chilmark Board of Selectmen stated that they never expected to see such a disparity between the three towns' cost per student in the UIRSD. He expressed gratitude that the citizens of Chilmark have the choice between the Chilmark School and the West Tisbury School but questioned the worth of the option. He stated that he looks forward to the information from the Town Accountants' vetting and other sources that may be available in the spring.

The question came up as to why the cost per student quote off island is so different than the cost per student represented here. Amy Tierney, School Business Administrator to the Superintendent of Schools, explained that the State uses a much different formula to calculate the per pupil cost taking variable costs like transportation, debt and revenue out of the equation. Skipper explained that the formulas being discussed were based on tax dollars paid per pupil. Cindy stated that this cost analysis should not be compared to a State cost per student quote. Cost of "School Choice" kids was also discussed. It was mentioned that this issue as well as other budget fine points can be discussed after the formula review has been completed.

Kate Devane, Chair of the Up Island School Committee, made the point that the school uses the "School Choice" payments to offset other budget items. She suggested that the School Committee be in on the discussions taking place at meetings of this committee, stating that the decisions made will have an effect on each child in the UIRSD.

The "sharing of fixed costs proposal" which was presented by Skipper to the subcommittee was discussed. Cindy clarified that this was an informal idea given to them to explore and which was briefly described at the last meeting of this group.

Proportioning of existing debt costs was also discussed. Cindy said that presently, the owner town pays 80% of debt costs and the other two schools pay a proportionate amount of the remaining 20%. Amy Tierney suggested that discussing future debt on buildings is going to be important. Cindy stated that the West Tisbury Board of Selectmen is in agreement that there will not be a warrant article making changes to the formula until the process has been completely explored.

Cindy suggested that the subcommittee schedule their meetings independently but that this group meet at the West Tisbury Library on Thursday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm.