

West Tisbury Joint Meeting of Finance Committee Meeting and Selectmen
Howes House
August 14, 2018

Attendance

Finance Committee: Gary Montrowl – Chair, Chuck Hodgkinson, Greg Orcutt, Doug Ruskin
Selectmen: Cynthia Mitchell – Chair, Kent Healy, Skip Manter

Guests: Bruce Stone – Town Accountant

The Selectmen called their meeting to order at 5:01pm. The Finance Committee called its meeting to order immediately thereafter.

New Business

Appointment of Jane Dreeben to the Finance Committee

Skip Manter moved to accept the nomination of Jane Dreeben to fill the term of former Chair Katherine Triantafillou until the next general election in April 2019 at which time she must run as a candidate for the position. The motion was seconded by Kent Healy. The motion passed the Selectmen unanimously 3-0.

Greg Orcutt moved to accept the nomination of Jane Dreeben to fill the term of former Chair Katherine Triantafillou until the next general election in April 2019 at which time she must run as a candidate for the position. Doug Ruskin seconded. The motion passed the Finance Committee unanimously 4-0.

Adjournment

Skip Manter moved to adjourn the Selectmen's meeting. Motion was seconded by Cynthia Mitchell. The vote to adjourn was approved unanimously 3-0. The Joint Meeting was adjourned at 5:10pm.

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Approval of Minutes

Doug moved to approve the minutes from the July 10, 2018 meeting as written. Chuck seconded the motion which passed unanimously 4-0.

Old Business

Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC)/Review of All Island Finance Committee Meeting 8/6/18

The Chair, with input from other members, briefed Greg, who was unable to attend, on the results of the August 6, 2018 All Island Finance Committee (AIFC) meeting. It was agreed that the financial prospects of the Regional Emergency Communications Center (RECC) and the underlying emergency communication network were much improved over the situation at the time of RECC Committee meeting with the Undersecretary of State for Safety Kurt Woods in November 2017.

The Committee discussed that while many issues remain, including a permanent adjustment to personnel costs with annual cost of living updates and state funding of grants as anticipated, there now appears to be a clear path of action going forward to address serious problems related to the RECC needing immediate attention.

Committee members noted that the issue of maintenance costs associated with the upgraded infrastructure will almost certainly require funding by Island Towns and that this is an issue we should begin to discuss soonest, although no funding for maintenance will actually be required until 2020 at the earliest.

New Business

ACE MV

Chuck made a presentation on recent developments related to ACE MV and a discussion was held regarding the AIFC meeting scheduled for 27 September 2018 which will feature a discussion with ACE MV leadership.

Chuck reported ACE MV executive director Sam Hart and the MVRHS principal Sara Dingley floated the concept of a formal integration of the ACE MV curriculum into the MVRHS technical Education (CTE) program for FY 2020. This increased enrollment would theoretically help increase the CTE student/teacher ratios.

The Committee noted the 3-year informal agreement of seeking public funding via warrant articles for the ACEMV 501c3 expired this year - FY 2019 and may be contributing to the urgency for FY 2020. It was also discussed that apparently other high schools have a continuing education program as part of their high school curriculum. Chuck said he was not sure if this will be organized in time for inclusion in the HS FY 2020 budget.

Chuck mentioned the following opportunities or consequences may result should this happen:

- It may add ACE MV staff to high school payroll including salary, medical benefits and OPEB.
- ACE MV may lease the classroom space from the high school.
- ACE MV would then be able to apply for state and federal continuing education grants which might eliminate the need for town subsidies via warrant articles.

Chuck suggested perhaps the school should allow one more year of seeking public funds via town warrants for FY 2020 which would provide 12 months to flush out the pros and cons of this concept along with a pro-forma business plan for presentation next summer.

West Tisbury Finance Committee Joint Presentation

The Chair asked Bruce whether a date had yet been set for the Finance Team's presentation to the Selectmen. Bruce stated that no date had yet been set but that he would notify the Committee once a decision had been made by the Selectmen. The Committee stressed that Fin Com participation in this meeting at the outset to the new budget cycle will help ensure that the Selectmen and the Committee are on the same page going forward.

Jane joined the meeting during discussion of new business. The Committee welcomed Jane to the Fin Com team and expressed its appreciation for taking on the duties of office. There was a brief discussion of procedures and the budget process, after which the regular meeting continued

Correspondence/Scheduling

The next meeting of the Fin Com was confirmed for 11 September 2018.

Doug moved to adjourn. Greg seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Gary Montrowl, Chair
Margo Urbany-Joyce, Admin Assistant

Approved 9/11/18, 4-0 (Gary Montrowl was not present for voting)