

WEST TISBURY FINANCE COMMITTEE

HOWES HOUSE

TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2017

Present: Katherine Triantafillou, Chair; Gary Montrowl, Vice-Chair; Greg Orcutt; Doug Ruskin; Chuck Hodgkinson; Bruce Stone, Town Accountant; Skip Manter, Selectman.

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chair at 4:31 p.m. Greg reported that Margo was unable to attend because she had sustained a fall on the ice earlier in the day and was resting her back.

The Chair agreed to write up a summary of today's meeting given that no-one else was willing to take minutes.

There were no minutes from the previous meeting to act upon.

Budget/Warrant Recap: In general, members felt that the process worked quite well this year. Everyone felt the amount of time and number of meetings to address budget and warrant articles was good.

Annual Meeting Tasks/Planning: There was only one warrant article that the committee did not recommend and thus it was the consensus of the group that an article in the newspaper was unnecessary. Rather, the issue (residency requirement for personnel board) should be addressed as part of the larger presentation by the committee. Also, the Chair would follow up with the moderator regarding splitting up the various personnel by-law changes as per the email from Jen Rand that everyone had received. This would allow people who were in favor of the FMLA act language, e.g. to vote for it if they were opposed to the overtime/differential provisions. As in the past, the Chair will be responsible for presenting an overview of the committee's position on the budget including some emphasis on OPEB and the maintenance/repair costs.

Future Planning: The Chair reviewed the committee priorities from last fiscal year. There were three major areas - schools, personnel, OPEB. Committee members discussed their impressions of how well we met those goals and shared information on the details of each including school choice, the UIRSD funding formula and school budget process. All in all, members felt we made a difference in each of the areas we focused upon and are continually making progress.

Going forward, the Chair requested that members call out in "round-robin" fashion areas that they would like to highlight in the coming year. These include: Student/teacher ratios; the amount of the assessor's reserve for the overlay; foundation budget/state reimbursement; school user fees for extracurricular activities and town user fees for certain services; split tax rate/residential exemptions; consolidating legal budgets; possible proposed budget cap; personnel step increase formula; special education consultant's report.

These will obviously need to be discussed again to cull the list in order to provide the committee with a focused plan of action for the coming year.

The members discussed some specific areas of concern together with questions about the demographics of town growth and how it might impact future planning. Chuck mentioned an article in the Gazette which contained specific numbers, e.g. WT has more year-round residents than summer residents. Bruce observed that the calculations for OPEB will change. Also, in ten years the debt will go down appreciably.

There was no correspondence to share. The committee decided it would not meet in April given the timing of the Annual Meeting. Bruce stated that any reserve transaction could wait until May.

Adjournment: Gary moved to adjourn; Greg seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0 and the meeting was ended at 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Katherine Triantafillou, Chair

Approved 4-0

May 9, 2017