

**West Tisbury Finance Committee Warrant Hearing
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
Howes House
March 7, 2017**

Attendance

Committee: Katherine Triantafillou – Chair, Gary Montrowl – Vice Chair, Chuck Hodgkinson, Greg Orcutt, Doug Ruskin

Guests: Bruce Stone – Town Accountant, Jen Rand – Town Administrator, Skip Manter – Selectman, Richard Knabel – Selectman, Amy Tierney – School Business Manager, Michael Marcus – UIRSD Committee Chair, Dan Rossi – Police Chief, MV Refuse District – Steve Dourian, District Foreman, Dave Merry, Refuse District Board Rep from West Tisbury

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:08pm. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

Greg moved to approve minutes as revised from the meeting on February 14, 2017. Gary seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

New Business

Warrant #26 Up Island Regional School District OPEB - Amy Tierney, School Business Manager, Michael Marcus, UIRSD Committee Chair

- ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and Appropriate the sum of One Hundred Forty Six Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Three Dollars (\$146, 633) for the purpose of reducing the Up-Island Regional School District's Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Liability. If approved, these funds will be placed in the budget line item Education-Up-Island Regional School District #311-5600 Intergovernmental, of the fiscal year 2017-2018 budget for this purpose, provided however that the other two member towns of the District approve their share of the total \$208,286.

Amy Tierney explained the West Tisbury Finance Committee submitted a proposal to the Up Island Regional School District illustrating the size of the OPEB Liability and potential ways to address it. Doug asked questions about the amount included in the proposed warrant article and what amount would be proposed in future years.

Michael Marcus confirmed the amount included in warrant article #26 is the normal cost plus interest calculated in the most recent actuarial study, and is the amount necessary to keep the OPEB liability from growing, but not enough to reduce the OPEB liability. Michael Marcus also said the plan was to include normal cost plus interest as calculated in future actuarial studies in future budgets (not as warrant articles).

Warrant #13 Police Cruiser – Dan Rossi

- ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate from Overlay Surplus the sum of Twenty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$ 27,500.00) to purchase and equip one (1) All Wheel Drive Police Cruiser. This sum of money will be added to the Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000)

appropriated in Article 13 of the 2016 annual town meeting for a total of Forty Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$42,500.00); and to dispose of a 2010 Ford Expedition in the best interest of the town.

The Committee asked questions regarding vehicle life expectancy and the size of the fleet. Chief Rossi explained there are five cars, the one being replaced has 85,000 miles and vehicles are not replaced by age, but by the amount of wear a vehicle has accumulated. Chief Rossi said that he is concerned that using the 2010 Ford Expedition for another year would result in significant repair costs.

The Chair asked if the federal government would continue to reimburse the West Tisbury police department for the cost of two officers at the Martha's Vineyard Airport. Chief Rossi confirmed that is the case.

Warrant #8 MV Refuse District – Steve Dourian, District Foreman, Dave Merry, MV Refuse District Board Rep from West Tisbury

- ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will approve up to \$2,500,000.00 borrowing authorized by vote of the Martha's Vineyard Refuse Disposal and Resource Recovery District for the purpose of financing the cost of capital improvements toward the restructuring of Traffic flow and Residential Drop-Off at the Edgartown Transfer Station, or take any action relative thereto providing all 4 towns vote in the affirmative to do so.

Steve Dourian explained this is the third year the refuse district has submitted this warrant article. Steve said that last year the warrant article did not pass in Edgartown because of concerns from abutting neighbors and the prior year there was a timing issue with bonding the warrant article.

Steve said the facility has become obsolete and if more than ten cars are at the facility, it becomes a safety hazard.

Bruce Stone explained that \$387,500 over ten years for the new bond would be about \$38,750 plus interest annually, which would be comparable to the \$45,000 West Tisbury is currently paying. Bruce said over time, payments for the proposed bond would be less than for the current bond. Bruce also said that by the statute that established the MV Refuse District, any debt is considered a debt exclusion and does not impact proposition 2.5.

Warrant #9 ACE MV – Sam Hart, ACE MV Executive Director

- ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to Raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Two Hundred Eighty (\$15,280) to fund the Town of West Tisbury's share of the expense of the All Island School Committee's contract for Adult and Community Education in fiscal year 2018.

Sam Hart said the ACE MV focus is now on professional development and accredited classes, not enrichment classes. Sam explained this warrant article is the same warrant article submitted last year, is sponsored by the All Island School Committee and the cost breakdown is based on the 50/50 formula. Sam listed various professional development classes that were sold out or well attended including commercial drivers license, fertilizer and pesticide application, serve safe and hoisting.

Bruce said during last year's budget cycle ACE MV doubled its request of the towns from \$50,000 in FY16 to \$100,000 in FY17, but Edgartown and Tisbury only approved the \$50,000 amount. Bruce asked about the response from other towns this year. Sam confirmed that Aquinnah, Chilmark, and West Tisbury all

paid the requested amount last year, but the down Island towns did not. Sam said he has not yet visited the down island towns, but will let the Fin Com know by the end of the month.

Skip Manter praised the technical training programs such as fertilizer application and hoisting because without them, the work would be performed by people without the training. Skip said he didn't think it's bad to use public tax dollars to subsidize, but he does have an issue if other towns don't appropriate and therefore the 50/50 formula is not being followed. Skip said that if all towns are not funding according to the 50/50 formula, then priority should be given to the constituents of towns that fully fund.

Warrant #7 \$100,000 Repairs and Upgrades – Jen Rand, Town Administrator

- ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to transfer unused balances of Nineteen Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Five Dollars and Thirty Eight Cents (\$19,655.38) from Article 16 and Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$7,500.00) from Article 22 voted at the 2015 Annual Town Meeting Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00) from Article 33 and Three Thousand Six Hundred Thirty Three Dollars and Eighty Seven Cents (\$3,633.87) from Article 17 voted at the 2014 Annual Town Meeting and Sixty Four Thousand Two Hundred Ten Dollars and Seventy Five Cents (\$64,210.75) from Overlay Surplus for a total sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for repairs and upgrades to town buildings including, but not limited to, replacing the roof and skylights at the Field Gallery and associated repairs; remediating moisture intrusion on the Library's "bump out" section on the north east corner; and other repairs to town buildings as prioritized by the Board of Selectmen in its discretion.

Jen Rand explained that she and Bruce looked at warrant articles which had funds remaining/unspent funds to limit using new money. Jen said the overlay surplus is what the assessors have released once they believe there will be no more challenges.

Jen said the Board of Selectmen hired a consultant to look at the buildings for deferred maintenance and ongoing maintenance. Jen noted the Field Gallery roof and sky lights are in dire need of replacement, the extent of the moisture problem of the library bump out has not yet been determined and there is a lot of maintenance that has been deferred. Jen said the priority list is not yet complete, but maintenance and deferred maintenance will be ongoing on for years to come.

Chuck requested a final copy of the consultant's report when it is finished. Doug asked about the status of the maintenance schedule and budget that were to be created by the consultant as specified in the RFP.

Warrant #14 ACO Vehicle – Jen Rand, Town Administrator

- ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to Appropriate from Overlay Surplus the sum of Thirty One Thousand Dollars (\$31,000) to purchase and equip a vehicle for the Animal Control Department.

Jen explained the current vehicle is a 2006 model and has been on the replacement list for two years. Jen said the new vehicle will be a four wheel drive truck.

Warrant #34 Jake Braking – Jen Rand, Town Administrator

- ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following bylaw: No operator of a diesel truck shall use engine braking (also called exhaust braking or Jake braking) while operating a vehicle on a public way in the Town of West Tisbury. Whoever violates this bylaw shall be punished by a fine of One Hundred Dollars (\$100) for the first offense and Three Hundred Dollars (\$300) for the second and subsequent offenses. The owner of the vehicle may be cited in lieu of the operator.

Due to a revision of language, the Committee had no questions.

Warrant #39 Childcare at Town Meeting – Jen Rand, Town Administrator

- ARTICLE 39: Should the Town provide childcare for Town Meetings? (By Petition)

Jen Rand explained there was a public forum and one of the questions asked if more people would attend town meeting if child care was provided. Jen said this is a nonbinding question to voters. Jen explained she has been in touch with the school to see if it is possible to provide childcare at least for part of town meeting, but here are challenges because it would be provided by students who have an interest in childcare. Jen said there would be an age limit and they certainly wouldn't take infants.

The Committee asked questions regarding cost, logistics and insurance. Jen said the childcare would be provided in the cafeteria and because she has just started investigating the issue, she does not have all of the answers at this time.

Warrant #35 Warrant Submission Deadline

- To see if the Town will amend the existing deadline for warrant articles or subjects now appearing in the Town Bylaws in the part entitled "Annual Town Meeting Date" by deleting the first sentence of the second paragraph [*"All articles or subjects to be acted upon at the Annual Town Meeting to be held on the second Tuesday of April shall be filed with the Selectmen on or before the first Tuesday in February preceding said second Tuesday of April when the warrant shall be closed."*] and inserting in place thereof, the following language:

All Articles or subjects to be acted upon at the Annual Town Meeting to be held on the second Tuesday of April shall be filed with the Selectmen on or before the first Tuesday of the January preceding said second Tuesday of April when the warrant shall be closed.

No discussion.

The Chair asked Bruce if anything has changed regarding the risk of a proposition 2.5 override. Bruce said nothing has changed and the budget is expected to be under the levy limit by approximately \$40,000. Bruce confirmed that if all of the warrant articles were approved, a proposition 2.5 override would not be required.

Chuck noted that the language in Question 2 was different from the language on the Chilmark warrant for the same question.

- Question 2: Shall the Town be recorded in favor of the following *non-binding resolution*: Are you in favor of establishing a regional housing bank, to address the critical housing needs on the Vineyard?

Jen explained the Board of Selectmen did not support the inclusion of the CPA language as written in the Chilmark warrant.

The Chair noted that some, but not all Fin Com members think the Committee should vote on all warrant articles including CPC warrant articles and those warrant articles that do not involve money. The Chair asked if the Committee was willing to vote on all warrant articles. Doug said that his standing on CPA has not changed, noting that CPA legislation was introduced well after Fin Com bylaws were written and the legislation established a committee specifically empowered to vote on CPA projects. Doug summarized he doesn't see why the Fin Com needs to vote on CPA warrant articles and said he would abstain from voting on them. The Committee concurred that it would vote on all warrant articles.

The Chair instructed the Committee to come prepared on March 9 to vote on the budget and all warrant articles.

Correspondence/Scheduling

The next Finance Committee meeting will be Thursday, March 9 at 4pm and will be held at the Howes House.

Adjournment

Greg moved to adjourn. Gary seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margo Urbany-Joyce
West Tisbury Finance Committee Admin Assistant

Approved 4-0

May 9, 2017