

West Tisbury Finance Committee Budget Hearing
Howes House
January 17, 2017

Attendance

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

Guests: Bruce Stone – Town Accountant, Richard Knabel – Selectman, Skip Manter – Selectman, Cynthia Mitchell – Selectman, Joe Tierney – Building Inspector, John Christiansen – Emergency Management Director, Omar Johnson – Health Agent, Don Hatch – Martha's Vineyard Refuse District Manager, Sarah Kuh – Vineyard Health Access Director, Leslie Clapp – Center for Living Director, Rise Terney – Center for Living Board President

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00pm. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings

Greg moved to approve the January 3, 2017 minutes as revised. Gary seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

New Business

Budget Hearings – Public Safety

#210 Police Department

There was no presentation.

#220 Fire Department

There was no presentation.

#231 Tri-Town Ambulance

There was no presentation.

#241 Inspector of Buildings & Zoning - Joe Tierney, Building Inspector

Greg asked Joe Tierney how much lower West Tisbury permitting fees are than permitting fees in other towns on the island. Joe responded that it depends upon permit type. Joe explained that he conducts an analysis of all fees and presents that to the selectmen in January.

Gary asked Joe how the first year with an assistant is working out. Joe pointed out the increase in inspections and said having an assistant gives him more time to deal with building and zoning issues and complaints. Gary noted there is a significant uptick in the number of inspections from FY12 to FY16. Joe said every time there is an inspection request, the Building Inspector office has to prepare a copy of the permit for the inspector and when the inspector comes back he gives the office the info that must be entered into the system.

Doug said he tabulated the number of permits issued which he views as is a predictor of the future. Joe agreed. Doug said that 252 permits in FY16 and 277 permits in FY15 indicates a downward trend. Joe pointed out the value of construction only went from \$35mm to \$33mm so although there are fewer projects, the large dollar value indicates more time per inspection because it takes longer to inspect a

larger house. Joe said the airport project has started which will require additional time and he expects an additional nine affordable housing units to begin in the fall.

Doug asked if the permit fee has changed. Joe said there was a revised permit fee schedule beginning July 1, 2016, adding that for FY15, permit fees covered costs. Joe explained the basic goal is to have revenue offset the expense as opposed to putting the burden on the taxpayers. Doug said that in this budget, the revenue is short by \$40,000. Joe said the permit fee structure will be analyzed again for this July 1.

Gary asked when the stretch code was adopted. Joe responded it was adopted in 2011 and went into effect in 2012, adding that once you're in the stretch code, you're in. Joe said that a town meeting vote is the only way to get out. Joe said the energy committee gets a check every year and more energy efficient homes are built. Gary said he understood why the stretch code was adopted and that the cost is transferred to consumers, but asked what the town received in return. Doug responded that we have more energy efficient buildings and although the owners are spending more money up front, they have lower utility bills.

Chuck said it seems the town makes money on every electric, plumbing and gas permit. Joe responded that the town loses \$2.50 on each inspection. Bruce said the numbers are formula driven and they try to roughly estimate how many inspections per permit plus the town pays a licensing fee per permit for software use. Joe said the fee schedule is based on square footage, but some other towns base on dollar amount.

Doug said that his experience and that of others find that Joe is very thorough in his inspections and some claim Joe is too thorough. Doug said Joe's job is make sure people live in a safe environment, but Joe now has a full time assistant and Doug asked to what extent the budget is driven by how careful Joe is being. Joe responded that he uses the code as a guide. The Chair said she believes Doug was saying there is an increase in inspections from year to year and questioning if the increase in the budget is driven by the number of inspections.

Doug said, for example, he did some foundation work where the prior building inspector made one inspection and Joe typically makes three inspections for a similar situation. Doug asked how that impacts the budget. Joe explained that when started doing the work and going to training, he discussed the need for additional inspections for foundations with the prior building inspector who agreed the work required additional inspections. Doug asked if the additional inspections add to the need for an assistant. Joe replied yes, it does.

Chuck noted that for the first six months, the Building Inspector has only spent one third of the expense budget. Joe said that he hasn't had time for training, adding that he hasn't had a vacation in over a year. Joe said he went to a class in December which cost about \$2,000 and his local inspector is signing up for a class which will cost about \$1,500.

#291 Emergency Management – John Christensen, EM Director

John Christensen explained that Emergency Management is mostly a planning and communications department, not an operational department. John clarified that fire, EMS and police are the actual agencies and the Emergency Management department acts as a liaison with other departments or jurisdictions. John said that in terms of the budget, it is level funded except for his salary (director salary). John said that he doesn't expect to hold the position forever and the salary will need to increase

for the next director. John noted that the director salary increased \$3,500 last year and \$3,500 this year.

Gary asked if the salary will increase again. John responded no. Gary asked about the supplies budget (line 5580) which has doubled. John said the subdivision of the line items is not very descriptive so it ends up being a catch all and he wanted it to match the experience of the last two years so it did go up.

Chuck said that the overall expense budget is \$8,500, but year to date only \$2,100 is recorded and asked John if he planned on spending the remaining amount. John replied that it depends upon how many blizzards, storms and pandemics we have. John said that the town receives grants and reimbursements for some expenses. John said that signage for a flu clinic can be an expense. John said he won't necessarily expend the whole budget.

Chuck pointed out that In FY17, revenue generated was \$22,000 and is \$2,400 this year. Bruce explained that was a formula error. Chuck asked if John would ever see this as a regional position. John responded that a regional director would be ideal, but you need someone to answer the call, especially when it comes to grants.

Doug asked how many hours the stipend accounts for. John said it can range from nothing in a week to two days a week. Doug asked about storms. John said that if we open the emergency operations center at the fire station, he's usually there and someone needs to interface with MEMA.

Gary asked how an event like a serious hurricane would impact the EM budget. John said there is a post damage assessment which would be a basis for applying for grants. John added there is also a lot of paperwork for something as simple as a snow storm. John said the general philosophy between FEMA and MEMA is we should be able to deal with the first three days, but after that, we are allowed to get outside support.

The Chair asked what was the last emergency event. John replied a major snow storm two years ago. Bruce said the town was reimbursed \$20,000 for that storm.

The Chair asked to what extent does John get together with other towns. John replied that every month he meets with the other Island towns and he meets quarterly with MEMA. The Chair asked if other towns have similar budgets. John responded he doesn't know the budgets of other towns. The Chair asked if anyone spoke about regionalization. John said that some of the work is just compliance such as a continuity of operation plan. The Chair asked if there is written plan. John said the plan is on the website.

The Chair asked what happens if there is an event at Pilgrim Nuclear plant. John explained Martha's Vineyard is out of their range and there are general plans which focus on shelter in place. John further explained that generally if you stay inside and keep windows closed, you will not be subject to contamination. John added they have worked significantly on evacuation plans on the Cape.

Chuck said that Chilmark's Emergency Management budget is \$5,150. Chuck asked John if he thought other towns relied on his work, noting how thoroughly John does his job. John said It would be nice to push for one person.

Chuck pointed out that over the last two years EM expenses were about \$4,000 annually and asked if John would be comfortable reducing the expense budget to \$5,000 and requesting a reserve transfer if additional expenses were incurred. John said he'd like to keep the budget he submitted and pointed to training expenses this year.

Chuck said he is involved in emergency situations and John is definitely a regional leader. The Chair suggested John could speak to the All Island Finance Committee (AIFC) which could explore regional emergency management. John explained much of the sheltering falls on Oak Bluffs so there are steps toward regional cooperation.

#292 Animal Control Officer

There was no presentation.

#293 Herring Warden

There was no presentation.

#294 Tree Warden

There was no presentation.

#297 Insect Pest Control

There was no presentation.

#298 Shellfish Department

There was no presentation.

#299 Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group

There was no presentation.

Budget Hearings – Roads & Sanitation

#421 Superintendent of Streets

There was no presentation.

#422 General Highway Fund

There was no presentation.

#423 Snow & Ice Removal

There was no presentation.

#424 Street Lights

There was no presentation.

#433 Town Landfill/Local Drop Off – Omar Johnson, Health Agent

Omar Johnson said we are looking at a slight increase due to ongoing repairs and maintenance for trucking that is used for grading, repairs and new materials (line 5240). Bruce said he helped Omar in consultation with former health agent John Powers with the largest budget item under intergovernmental.

Bruce explained fees are collected at the local drop off and are turned over to the refuse district. Bruce said the refuse district bills the town monthly for the total cost of operating. Bruce explained the refuse district sends the total amount received for the month to the town which puts into a revolving fund.

Bruce further explained the money in the revolving fund is used to pay the monthly invoice received by the town. Bruce said the amount over the course of the year that isn't covered by the revolving fund is paid out of the intergovernmental line 5600 which this year was budgeted for \$46,000 and \$54,000 for next year.

Bruce said the town actually receives more revenue than the weight of the product due to the fact people are paying by the barrel and other factors. Bruce said John Powers typically budgeted about \$46k as the shortfall and that has consistently been \$20,000 under budget. Bruce continued that John is worried each year about transportation costs and always felt he needed some leeway.

Bruce said that John recommended keeping the budget level funded except there will be a change to the district's recycling sticker fee policy. Bruce said historically, the sticker fee was collected at the local dropoff and was part of the revenue the town receives into the revolving fund. Bruce explained the district is adopting a change where stickers purchased will now be district stickers, not individual town stickers and so the revenue will go to the district. Bruce said the town will not receive about \$8,000 which it normally would receive from recycling sticker fees and the district will reduce its assessment to the town.

Greg asked if the \$54,000 to cover costs which exceed income is from adding \$8,000 to the \$46,000. Omar responded yes.

Chuck noted last year the town received \$95,000 but is estimating it will have \$110,000 revenue in FY18. Bruce explained revenue will probably be less than \$110,000 which serves as a cap on the revolving fund, thus allowing the town to expend up to \$110,000 to offset the expenses.

Chuck asked what the town spends \$50,000 on? Bruce explained that is for the balance of salaries for people who work at the local dropoff, transportation of the actual product from West Tisbury to and a contract fee. Bruce said that is detailed in the refuse district budget.

Chuck asked if the staff is on the town payroll. Bruce responded the staff is on the refuse district's payroll. Bruce further explained the refuse district takes care of everything by collecting the fees and paying the expenses, then sending a monthly bill to the town.

#439 MVRDRRD Intergovernmental – Don Hatch

Don said that most of the changes in the budget are due to sticker fees and that recycling is increasing in cost per disposal with the current cost of \$35 per ton projected to increase to \$45 per ton. Don said that because West Tisbury has the lowest price on the island for disposal, we're starting to see people from out of town come to us. Don said that people go to the dumptruck and bring trash or recycling with them. Don said that the refuse district doesn't want to refuse people for trash, but recycling is difficult which is why the district decided to do a district sticker for all four towns and people will have to prove they are from one of those towns.

Don added there will also be a new price for nonresident stickers. The district sticker for all four towns is currently \$20 per vehicle which is rising to \$25 per vehicle and the nonresident stick will be \$35. Don

said a one time fee for nonsticker holders will be \$5 per visit in addition to the barrel cost. Don said the cost for senior citizens went from \$0 to \$10 per sticker.

Don said the district is using the sticker fees and the collection of metals to offset the increase in transportation and disposal cost. Don pointed out that in the recycling line item for the district, there is \$65,000 in expense above revenue.

Gary asked how the FY18 budget compares to last year's actuals. Don said last year the district assessed the towns almost \$66,000 with \$105,000 in transportation disposal cost and only \$40,000 in revenue coming back to that line item. This year there is \$95,000 in transportation disposal and we're contributing \$55,000 in revenue through the collection of sticker fees and metal collection. An assessment line item of \$65,000 will be \$40,750 in FY18.

Chuck asked what the town will be charged versus last year. Don replied the assessment will be \$2,940 less than last year and LDO increased \$255.

The Chair if there a reason why the Committee can't see a column comparison of the budget versus two previous years. The Chair explained that a narrative with the changes would also be very helpful. Don said the LDO contract is different for West Tisbury than for other towns which makes it difficult to explain the changes.

Greg asked how the cost of gasoline rising \$1/gallon impacted the transportation costs. Don said it has been a minimal increase adding that cost of \$25/ton has been consistent for years as has the \$4/bag fee.

Gary asked how this translates for the consumer. Don replied sticker fees are going up and bag fees are staying the same.

Doug asked If there a reason the district can't be self-sufficient so there are no assessments to the town. Don explained that if the tonnage were doubled, the district would be self-sufficient. Don added the other way would be to raise the fees. Doug asked what drives the policy of fees versus town contribution. Don said that everybody want free recycling and hazardous waste to encourage recycling and proper disposal of hazardous waste.

Chuck pointed out some typos and a calculation error in the submitted budget which flow through to net revenue over expenses.

Chuck pointed out that Nantucket has composting and asked if it makes economic sense on Martha's Vineyard. Don explained it If a redesign of the district is approved, it will open up two to three acres of space which the compost feasibility committee is evaluating. Don said there will be a cost to composting and there will be a fee which has not yet been determined. Don added the district would like to support composting. Chuck pointed out that would be a business model change and hoped that would be shared with the towns before a decision is made.

Gary asked the status of the district redesign. Don said the district must go back again to each town meeting, but this year the airport has approved the redesign. Don added that hopefully, by the time the district appears at town meetings, they will have more info about how composting will fit in.

#491 Cemeteries

There was no presentation.

Budget Hearings – Health & Human Services

#510 Board of Health – Omar Johnson, Health Agent

Gary asked what was included in line 5300, professional and technical services. Omar replied that is the cost of quarterly water testing for the library, town hall and beaches for which the board of health is responsible. Doug asked why the expense increased 19%. Omar responded that is due to an increase in the fees.

Gary asked why travel increased from \$3,200 to \$5,700. Omar replied that because he is new to the position, there are certification and training requirements he must fulfill. Bruce added that historically, travel was just mileage reimbursement but it also includes travel for trainings and certifications.

Greg noted that license revenue decreased from \$11,300 to \$1,200. Bruce said that was a typo and permit fees will be level. Greg asked what is included in line 5580 other departmental supplies. Omar was not certain what was included. Bruce pointed out that #380 purchased services is the town's share of an agreement that is usually done county wide for mosquito testing.

Chuck pointed out that line items 5490, 5510 and 5580 all had small amounts budgeted, but had no actual expenses in the prior two years. Bruce answered it could be coding where the actuals were recorded in other line items for supplies.

Chuck asked about the salary budgeted for FY17 which included salary for former health agent John Powers and salary for current health agent, Omar Johnson. Bruce said that Omar came on at a lower step. Bruce explained there has been a determination by the board that there may be a need for additional hours. Bruce continued that extra hours are budgeted in case needed, but the position was not changed from 35 to 40 hours per week.

Chuck highlighted that in FY17, \$87,000 was budgeted for personal services and year to date \$72,000 has already been spent. Bruce said that will be adjusted because FY17 included John Powers' separation hours and the Selectmen have approved the use of about \$26,000 from the separating employee reserve fund.

The Chair asked about the longevity cost. Bruce responded that was attached to John Powers.

Gary asked if this is the first year for mosquito control? Bruce responded that this year's budget will be similar to FY15. Doug asked if there is any reason we can't budget travel expense attached to training in training? Bruce said it really doesn't matter as long as we are consistent and we have consistently separated them.

The Chair pointed out there was no narrative submitted with these two budgets and asked why. Bruce responded this was a budget they were working on to get the numbers right at the last minute and he agrees a narrative would have been helpful. The Chair explained the narrative is part of the project and she is more inclined not to vote for a budget without a narrative.

#522 Health Services – Omar Johnson, Health Agent

Chuck noted FY17 and FY18 is the same budget for expenses, but year to date only \$2,400 of \$17,000 has been spent. Bruce explained there are two main parts of that budget. Bruce said one part is visiting nursing services provided to clients and VNA of CC, which is lagging behind in their billing. Bruce said the other part is the CORE program which is a county program run through MV Community Services and we haven't received the annual assessment which is about \$6,000. Bruce said the VNA expense may go down, but it is based on need so we estimate it based on long term experience.

#525 Vineyard Health Access – Sarah Kuh

The Chair asked what is new and different about the Vineyard Health Access budget this year. Sarah Kuh responded that It is fairly similar, but the total ask from the towns is about \$6,000 more per town. Sarah explained the primary expense of the program is personnel so the increases are typically fixed costs like health insurance adding Vineyard Health Access is under the county personnel system. Sarah said that For FY18, the county COLA is 1% which is a median of the six towns from the previous year. Sarah said the total budget is \$463,064 up from \$459,915 which is \$3,031 . Sarah explained West Tisbury's share of the formula (based on the 50/50 formula) is 14.79% this year which is down slightly from 15.28%.

Gary asked if the program has stabilized and is where it is going to be. Sarah said VHA is a little pressured in its ability to provide services to the Medicare population. Sarah explained it is a special area of expertise and there is a staff member who specializes in that. Sarah said that at some point, one person may not be enough to handle the work.

Gary asked how people access the services. Sarah responded that people either call, drop by, or access MVhealthaccess.org. Greg said that he and his wife were impressed with the VHA services.

Bruce asked how flexible VHA will be to respond to changes in the affordable care. Sarah said the short answer is that the program predates healthcare reform in MA or nationally adding that she thinks VHA will be able to support people in the community.

The Chair asked why there is no narrative with the budget submitted. Sarah responded that VHA usually does not provide one. The Chair said it would be helpful to understand the VHA programs and how they overlap with programs from other organizations.

#540 Martha's Vineyard Center for Living – Leslie Clapp, Director and Rise Terney, Board President

Gary asked how the move to the new building is going to work. Rise Terney responded that three contractors have been contacted and at least two are expected to submit estimates. Rise said a line for the sprinkler system that was required by the fire department has been installed and drawings from the architect have been received. Rise estimated the process will take four to five months. Leslie Clapp said she hoped to be in the space by July 1. Rise said maybe August.

Gary asked how the surplus building space would be utilized. Leslie responded the CFL will lease the entire first floor and the second floor is up to the county who owns the building.

Chuck asked about the Alzheimers program. Leslie replied that last Friday was the first day for the caregivers support group in which three attended and a few others said they just weren't aware of it. Leslie said the CFL will also provide individual counseling.

Bruce said that when he looked at units of service, over half of the units of service were private pay generating \$58,000 and the towns pays \$360,000 for the other half of service units. Bruce pointed out the private pay is heavily subsidized by the towns. Leslie confirmed yes, that is true.

Chuck pointed out 58% of the assessment was spent in the first six months and asked if that will balance out. Bruce asked if there was a revised budget to reflect the amount of time the CFL will be in the new building. Leslie said that Martina Thorton would be the best person to answer that.

Gary said the CFL seems to have had some good success with getting grants. Leslie responded the medical taxi program and the emergency food program are run purely on grants. Leslie said the Alzheimer family support program is also on a grant. Leslie added that as the CFL expands its services, additional grants will be sought.

Gary asked if grants are a reliable form of funding. Leslie responded yes, for the established programs. Leslie said she is working with the Vineyard Transit Authority to get a van that will park in Woods Hole as a way to reduce costs for the medical taxi program.

Greg asked if the CFL expects to see increased bequests and gifts. Leslie replied yes, the CFL is looking at all of its needs and looking at ways to expand fundraising.

Chuck highlighted that in the employee budget for next year, the SDP special assistants increase from 18.5 hours per week to 26 hours per week so those three positions will get full benefits in addition to expanded hours. Chuck asked if the CFL is increasing personnel from four benefited positions to seven. Leslie said yes, that is with the expansion of the program when the CFL moves into the new building.

#541 Up Island Council on Aging

There was no presentation.

#543 Veteran's Benefits

There was no presentation.

The Chair told the Committee her preference is to lump all budgets together and take one vote, but votes can also be taken one department at a time. The Chair asked if there was additional discussion on departments #210 through #543.

Doug said he would like to separate #241 building department. Chuck said he thinks West Tisbury is subsidizing other towns with Emergency Management, but he's not sure how to limit that. Gary referred to Katherine's suggestion discussing Emergency Management with the AIFC.

The Chair explained that although the Finance Committee has not met with all of the departments, all of the budgets have been reviewed at an earlier meeting, were submitted with complete narratives and kept within budget parameters acceptable to the Committee.

Greg moved to preliminarily recommend the following budgets:

- *Public Safety*
 - 210 *Police Department*
 - 220 *Fire Department*
 - 231 *Tri-Town Ambulance*

291 *Emergency Management*
293 *Herring Warden*
294 *Tree Warden*
297 *Insect Pest Control*
298 *Shellfish Department*
299 *Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group*

- *Roads & Sanitation*
421 *Superintendent of Streets*
422 *General Highway Fund*
423 *Snow & Ice Removal*
424 *Street Lights*
433 *Town Landfill/Local Drop Off*
439 *MVRDRRD Intergovernmental*
491 *Cemeteries*
- *Health & Human Services*
510 *Board of Health*
522 *Health Services*
525 *Vineyard Health Access*
540 *Martha's Vineyard Center for Living*
541 *Up Island Council on Aging*
543 *Veteran's Benefits*

Doug seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

The Chair called for discussion on budget #241 Inspector of Buildings and Zoning. Doug said the he is concerned with a decrease in permit numbers coupled with a 27% increase in the payroll budget. Doug said the town is facing a budget that has the potential for requiring a proposition 2.5% override. Gary said he thinks it's early in the process to make that decision because said the second employee has only been onboard for three months. Gary added the Building Inspector made a good point that the projects are fewer, but more complex.

Chuck asked if we're increasing the assistant hours this year because it is a busy year, do we decrease hours in a lighter year. Doug said with the town building maintenance, his hours may increase.

Richard Knabel said the Local Inspector was hired at 20 hours per week in a benefitted position and it will stay that way. Richard said he thinks that any additional hours will be an annual decision based on need. The Chair asked if there is room to decrease the hours if there is less building.

Doug asked if the Selectmen have discussed the topic. Cynthia Mitchell replied the Selectmen have approved the budget with the extra ten hours, but have the same concern. Cynthia said the Local Inspector is spending a lot of hours in training which will not continue forever. Cynthia added perhaps the Building Inspector can manage some efficiencies in the department.

Chuck asked if the Selectmen would be able to speak to the Building Inspector about budgeting 300 extra hours this year and see where it settles from there. Chuck pointed out someone working 30 hours/week doesn't have much time for a second job. Richard responded the Local Inspector accepted

a job with 20 hours. Richard said that he doesn't think the employee is expecting 30 hours permanently. The Chair asked if theoretically, the hours could go back down to 20. Richard responded yes.

Doug asked if the Local Inspector has the availability to work ten additional hours per week. Richard said that the Local Inspector has already been working the additional hours. Skip said there have been several occasions when hours were reduced over time. Gary said he wants to make sure the employee understands it is not necessarily a permanent increase. Richard responded that it has not come back to the Selectmen there is a problem.

Greg moved to preliminarily recommend budget #241 Inspector of Buildings & Zoning. Gary seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Scheduling/Correspondence

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 19 at 4pm.

The following correspondence items were received:
Warrant article submittal sheet from Fire Department
Town Accountant Bills and Payroll Due Date
The Beacon – Vol XLIII, No. 1

The Chair addressed the Selectmen regarding a Finance Committee warrant article to move the warrant article submission deadline from the first Tuesday in February to the first Tuesday in January. The Chair said the Fin Com submitted the warrant article last year, but withdrew the submission because it was the Selectmen's preference it be withdrawn. The Chair said the Fin Com would like to resubmit the warrant article. Richard suggested that Jennifer Rand, Town Administrator should be part of the discussion. The Chair explained the reasoning is the Finance Committee preliminarily approves the budget at the end of January, but does not receive the warrant articles until late February.

Skip said that in order to eliminate placeholders, the warrant article submission deadline is the first Tuesday in February, but there is another two weeks in which final language can be submitted. Doug said If we were to move the deadline back to January, you would be effectively saying the warrant articles need to be written before the holidays. The Chair said other Island towns do in that way including Edgartown and Chilmark which have a Jan 1 deadline. The Chair said she is hearing the Selectmen are not comfortable with the proposed warrant article and there can be further discussion, but in order to meet the February 2, 2017 submission deadline, she would like the Fin Com to vote.

Chuck asked about giving the Fin Com the ability to see the warrant before it is signed. Doug explained that led to confusion in the past because the Committee would receive multiple versions of warrant articles without final language. Richard said the Selectmen eliminated placeholders to minimize confusion for the Finance Committee. The Chair said the topic could be put off until next Tuesday when Jen Rand would attend the Finance Committee meeting. Richard said he would be more comfortable if Jen was involved in the discussion.

Doug said he wanted to understand if this warrant article were to pass and the warrant articles submitted by the first Tuesday in January such that the Finance Committee would receive them by mid January, is it our goal to be able to review the warrant article immediately after the budget. The Chair said yes, the goal is to have the whole financial picture when the Committee votes on the budgets. Doug said that at this stage, because the Fin Com provisionally recommends the budgets, it has the

ability go back and change a recommendation. The Chair said that although that is possible, it is very rushed at that point.

Chuck said that early in the process, the Fin Com is only interested in what's being requested, how much does it cost and how is it being financed (raise & appropriate, free cash or stabilization fund). Chuck added the Fin Com does not need to see the final language that has been approved by Town Counsel. Doug disagreed. The Chair said the Committee will wait until next Tuesday to vote so that Jen Rand can attend the meeting.

Adjournment

Gary moved to adjourn. Greg seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margo Urbany-Joyce
West Tisbury Finance Committee Administrative Assistant

Vote: 5-0

Date: January 26, 2017