

**West Tisbury
Finance Committee Meeting
Special Meeting
Howes House
March 19, 2016**

Attendance

Committee: Katherine Triantafillou – Chair, Gary Montrowl – Vice Chair, Greg Orcutt, Doug Ruskin and Sharon Estrella

Guests: Skip Manter – Selectman, Dan Waters, Moderator

The Chair called the meeting order at 11:30 a.m. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meetings:

No minutes were reviewed or approved.

New Business – Working Session

The Chair explained the purpose of the meeting was to discuss in an informal way impressions from the last meeting and to consider the actions taken then. Given that the meeting went over timewise and was a bit hectic towards the end, the Chair and others thought the group might benefit from a review of the votes and consideration of what proactive measures, if any, might be taken.

A general discussion ensued. Greg thought we should have taken a vote on the warrant articles as they came up in the “hearing” portion of the meeting as he was extremely tired by the time we reached voting on the articles. Gary and Doug both felt the school issue went on too long and therefore we got to the warrant articles much later than anticipated. Sharon thought the meeting, which she watched on television was “horrifying” and she thought we should have been meeting throughout February and that much time had been wasted by not having meetings continuously since January. Katherine stated she would have ended the meeting before we moved downstairs but felt compelled to push forward because some members had felt it was extremely important to have the our votes printed in the annual report. (The deadline was March 10th).

There was a consensus that the process needed to be tweaked in the future and that because the schools were late in getting their budgets to the committee that impacted the schedule we had agreed upon in January. Doug also wanted to know why the “2-2” votes weren’t included in the draft warrant articles.

Dan stated that he had a copy of the warrant which wasn’t signed and therefore suggested that it may still be possible to make changes in the recommendations submitted to the Selectmen. Also, if it was just the annual report printing deadline, perhaps the FC ought to reconsider whether it made sense to continue to try to meet that deadline if it interfered with decision making.

The Chair stated she would contact the Town Administrator to find out what options were available to it given that the warrant may not have been published in its final legal form, although the annual report had gone to print.

A general discussion was also had about specific warrant articles and consideration of what, if any, changes people might want to consider at the Tuesday meeting. Doug thought we should vote at this meeting. Sharon stated even if we voted at this meeting, she would abstain because she thought all the votes on warrant articles should be aired on TV. Gary didn't think it was necessary to incur the cost of filming additional meetings. Doug observed that unless anyone was convinced to vote otherwise, a deadlock of 2-2- would remain. FC members explained some of their reasoning for voting the way they did on the schools, the police cruiser and the outside facilities manager. Some members thought reductions should be recommended for specific other budgets that included large increases.

Katherine distributed copies of the Arlington Finance Committee report for members to take a look at as we go forward with ways to tackle the budget and warrant articles more efficiently

We reviewed the Warrant Article "Explanation of Votes Taken by the West Tisbury Finance Committee – 2015 ATM Warrant" that Doug had prepared and gave suggestions to him about rephrasing. We also reviewed the op-ed piece that Gary wrote and gave him suggestions on how to edit that document. Both Doug and Gary agreed they would bring redrafts to the next meeting.

Sharon announced that this would be her last meeting as her surgery had been rescheduled and would not be able to attend on March 22, 2016.

Adjournment

Doug moved to adjourn. Greg seconded the motion which passed 5-0. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katherine Triantafillou, Chair

Approved: 4-0

Date: 3/22/16