

West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
Howes House
January 9, 2018

Attendance

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

Guests: Bruce Stone – Town Accountant

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:35pm. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings

Greg moved to approve minutes as submitted. Doug seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Old Business

Financial Ramifications of Leaving Up Island Regional School District (UIRSD)

Cognizant of the fact a process they don't want to impede is still in motion, the Committee decided that a Finance Committee task force led by Doug and Greg would begin to ascertain the facts regarding finances related to a West Tisbury departure from the UIRSD with the idea the information would be used to support the Selectmen in their discussions. Doug and Greg agreed to consult with Bruce as his time permits.

New Business

Review of Department and Committee Budgets

The Chair suggested that programs including Core and First Stop which submit warrant articles annually become line items in the budget. Bruce explained that would take away the ability of the Selectmen or the Finance Committee to add conditional language such that West Tisbury would participate only if all six towns agree to participate.

The Fin Com discussed the fact that budgets submitted from the county present inconsistent financial information, are difficult to follow, don't contain prior years' comparables and often are late. The Chair suggested requiring uniformity/standardization to the budgets submitted. Bruce pointed out that each town may require a different format. The Committee decided that although it would like to honor the spirit of the All Island Fin Com presentations, it would like to meet with Martina Thorton to discuss budget formatting and timing for next year.

Katherine asked Bruce why longevity increases vary. Bruce explained the longevity scale is 1% for 10 -14 years, 2% for 15-19 years, 3% for 20-24 years, 4% for 25-29 years, 5% for 30-34 years, 6% for 35-39 years and 7% for 40 years or longer. Bruce added the longevity increase is not cumulative and is similar to a bonus payable on the employee's anniversary as described in the personnel bylaws.

Katherine stated there was a lack of discipline in many budgets which have increases in personnel and add vehicles. Katherine also voiced concern regarding budgets submitted that did not contain a

narrative. Chuck expressed concern about the cyclical nature of building and adding staff during a building boom such as we are seeing now.

The Committee reviewed all budgets submitted and chose to request the following attend a budget hearing:

122	Board of Selectmen
141	Board of Assessors
145	Town Treasurer
155	Data Processing
192	Town Buildings
194	Town Electric
210	Police Department
220	Fire Department
231	Tri-Town Ambulance
241	Inspector of Buildings & Zoning
292	Animal Control Officer
298	Shellfish Department
299	MV Shellfish Group
311	Up Island Regional School District
313	MV Regional High School District
439	MVRDRRD Intergovernmental
510	Board of Health
525	Vineyard Health Access
610	Library
710	Debt Service
751	Long Term Debt
752	Short Term Debt

Budget hearings will take place on January 23, January 25, February 6 and February 8. The hearings will be held at the Howes House and begin at 4pm.

Doug pointed out the budget is growing faster than the population in West Tisbury, illustrating that people are requiring a higher level of services. Chuck noted that in 2004, the town spent \$3,803 per year round resident and in 2016, the town spent \$5,183 per year round resident. Chuck also pointed out that the school assessment as a percentage of the total budget has decreased from 65% in 2004 to 55% in 2016.

Any Topic Not Anticipated by the Chair

Doug distributed a draft letter to the Personnel Committee which requests changes to the step increase process. Finance Committee members agreed to review the letter and send comments to Doug.

Committee Reports

Community Preservation Committee (CPC)

No report.

Up Island Regional School District (UIRSD)

Greg pointed out Aquinnah has nine more children in the UIRSD in FY18 which is increasing the town's budget by 30%.

Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS)

No report.

Correspondence/Scheduling

The Chair shared the latest copy of the Beacon with the Committee.

Adjournment

Katherine moved to adjourn. Chuck seconded the motion which passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 23 at 4:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Margo Urbany-Joyce
West Tisbury Finance Committee Admin Assistant

Approved 5-0

January 24, 2018