

**West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
At the Howes House
October 8, 2019**

In Attendance: Doug Ruskin, Gary Montrowl, Clark Rattet and Greg Orcutt

Absent: Jane Dreeben

Also present: Janice Haynes and Skipper Manter

Greg Orcutt called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

- **Minutes:** Motion to approve the Minutes of September 10th. Was seconded.
The motion passed unanimously 4-0.

Old Business:

1. Posting of Committee Assignments on web site:

The group agreed that it was not a bad thing to have on the web site for informational purposes. Janice said that it is one of her responsibilities at the Town Hall anyhow to update the website so she would type something up and send it to Greg for approval and then add to the Fin Com page.

2. Review bills-payable procedures

Greg explained that he had spoken with Bruce Stone about how it should be done. Bruce said that under a certain amount the Chair can go ahead and approve bills for payment. Greg asked if the committee wanted to be consulted for bill approval or just let him take care of it?

There was discussion specifically on the MVTV bill for the All Island Fin Com meetings. One of the 2 meetings was hosted by West Tisbury and one by Oak Bluffs, but Greg made the requests for both as a courtesy, so they billed us. Gary proposed that the AIFC bills should be split between the 3 towns (WT, OB and Edg, most likely to host) this time and going forward they should have a discussion with the other towns as to how it should be done. Doug said he doesn't like the idea of splitting bills; it just leads to arguing over them. He believes the host should always pay. It was decided that Greg will call Oak Bluffs Fin Com to pay the current bill for the meeting they hosted and we will pay ours. Going forward the host should always be the one billed and pay.

Committee Reports

- **CPC:**

Gary reported on the CPC review of applications for eligibility that had come in. He explained some of the questions and issues that had been raised at their meeting. The Fin Com will have to decide on their position for Gary to vote when the time comes. There were questions from the committee about why certain requests went to the CPC and were not part of their budgets? Gary said this had just been an eligibility application and those questions would be addressed in the next phase.

- **MVRHS meeting**

Doug reported that the efforts to get mediation so as to get the towns together to talk about the funding issue was not going well. There were 2 groups approached for quotes; MARS (?) a state organization, and a local MV group. The MARS group did a presentation, but it turns out does not provide mediation. Attendees of the meeting were disappointed that the Superintendent's office didn't make it clear when they were invited to present. The local MV group declined to attend the meeting feeling that it would be a conflict for them to be involved and that they would be better served by an off island group. The Superintendent's office will go back to the drawing board and Doug said that he had suggested they contact a mediation group that he had read about that had worked with some Cape Cod towns. He also reported that the Chilmark representative had walked out of the meeting saying that their Select Board had voted to not participate.

Greg asked what should be done in regard of the All Island Fin Com; he feels they are a non-functioning entity now. Doug said they should keep trying. Gary said they should keep discussing.

New Business:

Doug reminded the group that they had voted last year to discuss with the town departments revenue matching. Gary pointed out that it had been done. The Board of Health and Building Departments were both approached and they both raised some fees. Doug says they were not raised enough. He would like another attempt to make revenues match. Gary pointed out that they would have to speak to those who actually set the fees; the Selectmen. He would be uncomfortable with forcing the issue. He said that the (building) department needs to exist, regardless of whether any building is happening or not. It was decided to wait until the next meeting for an official vote so that all 5 members could be present.

The Tri-Town Ambulance joint meeting:

Greg said that he is conflicted. He does not want to pay for a building controlled by another town. Doug explained that the Tri-Town area has grown since it was formalized at town meeting in, he believes, 1976. He would like to see the building owned by TTA,

not the town of Chilmark. Skipper said that he was not sure the town could legally own property in another town. In the past they could not, but he was not sure if that had changed. Lawyers will be looking into it.

Janice said speaking of TTA, Jen had asked if Fin Com members could attend the October 23 Selectmen's meeting as they would have it on their agenda. Everyone made note on their calendars.

Gary let the committee know that he has made the decision to not run for re-election at the end of his next term in April of 2020. It has been 9 years and he has been getting busier with his other commitments. They all decided it was time to start looking for someone to come and sit in on meetings to see if they would be interested.

Correspondence: None.

Next meeting will be November 12th

With no further items to discuss, there was a motion to adjourn. Seconded.

Approved unanimously 4 -0

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Haynes
Administrative Assistant
10/10/19

Approved 11/12/19