

~Approved 1-11-22~
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
Zoom meeting
December 14, 2021, 5:00 pm

In Attendance: Greg Orcutt, Cathy Minkiewicz, John Christensen, and Clark Rattet (late)

Also present: Skipper Manter, Bruce Stone and Janice Haynes

Greg called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm

Minutes to approve:

- **November 9th:** there was no discussion or edits.

John made the motion approve the minutes of November 9th. Greg seconded. Roll call vote –3 in favor (Clark had not yet arrived) Motion passes (3-0-0)

New Business:

- **Budget meeting schedule:**

Greg explained that in the past, there have been 3 meetings in January 4 in February and then meetings as needed in March to discuss the warrant articles. We will definitely want to call in the schools. Janice pointed out that Wednesdays were not a good night for additional meetings as that was Select Board meeting time. They will keep Tuesdays and Thursdays in mind.

- **Finance Committee Budget:**

The budget is reduced about 9% and not much is changed. Bruce pointed out that they may not need the money for MVTV recordings if meetings go hybrid as Zoom has recording ability. John suggested they budget \$250 for printing of info for Annual Town Meeting.

- **Tri Town Ambulance warrant article:**

Doug had requested the topic be put on agenda but was unable to attend. It will be put on next month's agenda. John reminded them that Doug and Greg discussing this outside of a scheduled posted meeting was against the Open Meeting Laws.

- **Invitation to the Board of Assessors:**

The Finance Committee would like to invite them to discuss tax rate exemptions. It had been forgotten this past year. After discussion it was suggested to invite them to the June 14th, 2022 meeting. Greg will extend invite.

Old Business:

- **Special Town Meeting Review:**

Discussion followed. One item that came up; John pointed out that the school had also asked for money for the roof in the spring and ended up needing double the amount.

- **Priority Worksheets:**

John showed an example he had done for ice cream and asked the other members to please send him their numbers that they get when they fill them out for Fin Com priorities. John also showed a spread sheet he had done with the Assessor's budget that showed the average for their legal line over the last few years. He still thinks it's reasonable to ask them to cut that line in half.

- **Tax Rate Classification Hearing:**

They had touched on the topic already when discussing the invite to the Assessors to come speak to them. John pointed out that it was a revenue neutral item and that the Fin Com doesn't really have a say, but he is for educating the public.

Committee Reports:

- Clark spoke about the MVRHS committee and their budget. One thing he said was that they are not submitting warrant articles this year and plan to use E & D funds.
- Cathy reported on the highlights of the Select Board meetings
- Greg reported on the UIRSD and said most of their discussion was budget talks.
- John had no report for the MV Commission

Topics Not Anticipated:

- Clark would like to work on getting the 6 towns back to the table to agree about the High School. He is very worried about the heating system and what could happen. Skipper pointed out that the funding formula is the issue.
- Skipper invited the members to come have eggnog next Wednesday at his house.

*With no further items to discuss, Clark made the motion to adjourn. Cathy seconded.
Roll call vote – all in favor*

Meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Haynes
Administrative Assistant