

West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
At the Howes House
February 24, 2020
Approved 5/14/20

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

Also present: Sue Hruby, Richard Andre, Bruce Stone, Skipper Manter, Jen Rand, Dan Waters

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

Minutes:

Greg asked to approve the Minutes of February 11th. Doug offered some edits, mostly clarifying language to the MVRHS budget discussion.

Doug moved to approve the minutes as amended. Clark seconded. **Approved 5-0**

Greg asked to approve the Minutes of February 13th. Doug again had some edits. He asked that Janice add some info from an email from Bruce Stone explaining the Library budget amendment. Doug moved to approve the minutes as amended. Clark seconded. **Approved 5-0**

Warrant Article Review:

Sue Hruby was asked to explain the article submitted by the Energy Committee for money to install an electric vehicle charger (EVC) in the Library/Howes House parking lot. She explained that the amount requested (\$2761.) was the remainder after a grant of \$7500. is received from the State's Competitive Green Communities program. Bruce said that West Tisbury got \$148,000. about 5 years ago and have only just finished spending it. Sue believes we have a very good chance of being approved. Gary asked what happens if we are not approved? Sue said they would apply again next year. Doug asked if the total amount covered equipment and installation. Sue said yes. There would be additional expenses from Eversource, but the lines they put in would be able to handle 10 charging stations and we are only putting in 2 now. Doug asked about the rate for charging. Sue said that is all set by Eversource and they take care of payment. It would be done by credit card swipe. Jane asked why they were proposing to install electric car chargers and why at the Library? Richard spoke about the number of summer visitors who have electric cars. Sue said the request also touched on the other article proposed to reduce fossil fuel consumption. The Library was chosen because it is a central location and a popular area during the summer with the Farmer's Market. Jen said that the chargers at the Town Hall were in constant use in the summer and not by the Town cars. Gary asked about the life span of the chargers. Sue was not sure, she knew there would be a warrantee but pointed out that the chargers at Cronig's were going on 7 years. Her research so far shows that maintenance has not been too big a deal and they are hoping to be able to coordinate with other towns on island when service is required so they come and do all at once. Greg asked about liability. Jen said they would be covered by the town's policy and it's not of concern.

Sue next spoke about Article 13 the Non-binding resolution to reduce fossil fuels. She said it was aspirational and would take a lot of coordinating with other Town boards to make it happen

and it is on the warrants for all six towns. Gary asked if the principal focus is on Town buildings. Richard said no, it is geared towards all residents. It is a suggestion, not a mandate and change would take place over time. He gave examples of replacing heating systems as needed and changes in building codes with new builds. There was discussion about the various Town buildings and how many run on fossil fuels or have generators at this time. Gary would like to see a comprehensive plan to cushion the blow to taxpayers. Sue said they intend to do more planning and have info at Annual Town Meeting. They also intend to make use of the Green Communities Grants. After more discussion, Greg thanked Sue and Richard for coming.

Unanticipated Departmental Budget Issues:

Dan Waters would like to add \$1500 to the Moderators Budget. He explained how the Library had received a grant and decided to use it to do a mailing to voters to inform them of a Q & A forum before ATM. Dan believes it is a good idea and would like to do it every year so the expense needs to be put into the budget. He's not sure it should be in the Moderators budget, it could be the Selectmen or even the Finance Committee. Greg said the Fin Com used to sponsor a Q & A but turn-out was low. Greg said in his experience, direct mailing is the most inefficient way of reaching people. He said we should do it this year, but look into other ways of contacting people. Doug said that the postcards had been his idea and had seen good results with some of the other non-profits that had done so. Greg asked who Bruce thought it should be. Bruce said it didn't matter as all 3 choices were elected positions with budgets. Skipper then suggested not appropriating money and instead having someone (whoever takes it on) come to the Fin Com for a Reserve Transfer if they choose to do the forum again. Everyone thought that was a great idea and the Fin Com was comfortable with doing that way. Dan said he would be fine with that suggestion.

Doug motioned to table the budget amendment presented by Dan. Greg seconded.

The committee voted to agree 5 – 0

Preliminary Budget Recommendations:

The committee reviewed the budget in sections and voted to preliminarily approve all items -except the school budgets which Doug asked to hold off on till next meeting.

Doug asked about the separate IT line in the Police Dept. budget. Bruce explained that they use the Town email, but the rest of the service is provided by another contractor thru the County and is used by all Emergency agencies on island. They Fire Dept. budget is the same.

Bruce also explained to the committee the changes to the County budget lines where some items are now warrant articles.

Correspondence: None.

The next meeting is Thursday February 13, 5 pm at the Howes House and will address Budget Review for the Building Department, Board of Health and Parks & Rec. Department.

With no further items to discuss, Clark made the motion to adjourn. Doug seconded.

Motion passed 5 – 0

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Haynes
Administrative Assistant
2/26/20