

~ Approved 2-13-24~  
**West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting**  
**January 18, 2024, 5:00 pm**  
**via Zoom**

**Present:** John Christensen, Skipper Manter, Clark Rattet and Greg Orcutt

**Absent:** Kimberly Angell

**Also:** Ben Retmeir, Greg Pachico, Matt Mincone, Cynthia Mitchell, Bruce Stone and Janice Haynes

Greg called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

**Minutes to Approve:** There were none.

**New Business:**

- **Budgets Review – West Tisbury Police Department:**

Chief Matt Mincone was welcomed and Clark began with his questions. He asked about the \$20,000. MSR grant and Matt said it had been secured and will be distributed throughout the year. He also asked about the police details line that went down and Matt said there was no specific reason, but staff has been short so haven't picked up as many detail shifts. He says it changes based on the events each year in town. The equipment and supplies line has also increased and Matt gave an example of tasers and how the technology keeps changing. They are trying to replace a few at a time over the next few years. Greg asked about the police presence at the airport and Matt explained how the details work. Matt was thanked and the committee said he had done a good job with his narrative.

*Skipper moved to approve the Police Department budget. Clark Seconded. Roll call vote; All in Favor. (4-0-0)*

- **Budgets Review – West Tisbury Fire Department:**

Chief Greg Pachico was welcomed and Clark started the questioning again. He asked first about the payroll increase and Greg explained that it was mostly his pay increase as they had updated his contract. He has also increased the pay for the duty chief and fire alarm calls. Clark asked about staffing problems and Greg said it stays about the same, people come and go, mostly related to housing issues. He has some room in the budget for more help. Greg was thanked.

*Skipper moved to approve the Fire Department budget. Clark Seconded. Roll call vote; All in Favor. (4-0-0)*

- **Budgets Review – Tri Town Ambulance:**

Ben says they are still waiting on the insurance numbers and for the December billing to be completed but he has a pretty good idea of the final numbers. Clark asked about the increase in the county retirement and the OPEB and Ben explained that every few years the county refigures for each town and Chilmark was just done. That number will likely increase every couple of years. He was also asked about salaries and said that they should stay fairly stable tho there will be small increases. Bruce mentioned the debt service on the new building and Ben said they have estimates in but are hoping it will stabilize soon. Greg asked about capital expenses for technology and Ben said yes new equipment will need to be purchased and gave some examples. Clark asked about grants for new equipment and Ben explained that most grants are available thru fire departments and they are a third-party service. Bruce asked about the impact of the aging population and Ben explained a bit about Medicaid and Medicare billing and how they do not cover as much. He says they are aware of the increase in calls for elderly patients. As there is no final budget number the committee can't vote to approve tonight, but Ben was thanked and said he'd send the final numbers as soon as he has them and is happy to come back if they have more questions.

Greg asked if the committee wanted to call in the Affordable Housing chair as they finally got their budget in. Everyone thought yes and Janice will contact Jeffrey Dubard and invite him. Since there were only 3 present by the end (Skipper had to leave early for another meeting) they decided to wait to vote on the general budget till all were present. There was general discussion about warrant articles and the budget. Bruce shared some of his thoughts on the budget and said that it was almost the worse he has ever seen.

The next meeting will be a budget hearing with the Library and schools on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Topics Unanticipated:** There were none

*With no further items to discuss John made the motion to adjourn. Greg seconded. Roll call vote; all in favor.*

Meeting adjourned at 5:49 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Haynes  
Administrative Assistant