

~Approved 3-12-24~
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
January 23, 2024, 5:00 pm
via Zoom

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

Also: Suzanne Cioffi, Alexandra Pratt, Mark Friedman, Sam Hart, Wendy Nierenberg, Richie Smith, Alex Salop, Sara Dingley, Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mary Boyd, Hope Macleod, Jim Newman, Micah Thanhauser, 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:

- **Budget Review: West Tisbury Library:**

Alexandra was welcomed and did a short presentation of her budget and explained the increases. She said they were mostly due to staffing, as they are busier and busier. Clark asked about the HVAC system and Alexandra explained the current status and their hopes to have it done by spring. Greg asked about Library materials and asked if they are trying to switch to digital? Alexandra said yes, they are, but people still like to read and they are seeing record numbers of material going out. The state also requires them to spend a certain amount of money on physical materials. Greg asked Alexandra to present a narrative in the future. Skipper said the library is a great asset to the town and the board agreed.

Greg moved to approve the Library budget. It was Seconded. Roll call vote; All in Favor.

- **Budget Review: MVRHS :**

Sara Dingley began the presentation speaking about the high school budget. She spoke about state funding and where they are using it. She explained the increases. Clark asked about salary increases and she explained that most were contractual. When asked about the contingency fund Suzanne said none had been used yet. She was also asked about capital money and said it was mostly for bus leases. There was more discussion about busses and electric busses. Greg asked about the building project and Sam hart explained about MSBA and the OPM who is the same company who is doing the Tisbury school and Chilmark fire station. They are getting ready to hire an architect this spring and hope to have some designs ready in FY 2025.

Clark moved to approve the MV Regional High School Budget. John Seconded. Roll call vote; All in Favor.

- **Budget Review: Up Island Regional School District:**

Mary Boyd shared a presentation and Donna spoke to explain the mostly historical data trends of school choice and other things. She explained the line increases, contractual, technology 5-year plan, and other things. Greg asked about truancy and Donna said that it's not just us, but a national problem as it effects MCAS scores and can be punitive.

Richie went on to explain about shared services that impact the region, including staffing in the Superintendent's office and Project Headway. Hope also spoke about shared services at the pre-school level. Bruce asked about OPEB funding and Richie and Alex Salop both spoke. Richie said they were about 46% funded and doing well at paying down the liability.

- **Other budgets not yet reviewed:**

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

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

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