

**West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting**  
**Zoom meeting**  
**January 26, 2021, 5 pm**

**In Attendance:** Greg Orcutt, Doug Ruskin, Clark Rattet, Doug Finn, John Christensen

Also present: Joe Teirney, Ben Retmeir, Skipper Manter, Bruce Stone, Jen Rand, Janice Haynes

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

**Minutes:**

- There were no minutes to approve.

- **Budget review: Building Department:**

The discussion of permitting fees was held again. When asked how West Tisbury fees compared to other towns, Joe said that their fees were lower than the down island towns and gave some explanation as to how they came up with them. He believes numbers this year will be lower as there are fewer large jobs happening, so far. There was discussion about the new permitting software and the integration with other departments. Doug Ruskin reiterated his hope that the gap between expenses and income would get smaller. Jen jumped in to point out that much of Joes time is spent on following up on complaints and other duties that do not generate fees, and that that work has increased because so many people are home now and here on the island. Joe was thanked for coming and Greg also said that he had written a great narrative. No action needed to be taken.

- **Budget review: Tri Town Ambulance:**

Ben spoke about the budget and how there was a significant drop in calls due he feels, to Covid. Questions were asked about the reserve fund for new vehicles and Bruce explained how the money was appropriated from the 3 towns. Ben said they were holding off on getting a new vehicle until the new facility in Chilmark was completed because the new one wouldn't fit into the current barns. There was more discussion on the possibility of electric vehicles and about the new building and the current status. Ben was also thanked for coming and a great budget. No action needed to be taken.

- **Housing Bank Presentation:**

Doug Finn presented for the Housing Bank about the new proposal the committee wanted to submit as a warrant article to ask for the Short Term rental Tax be earmarked for housing exclusively. There was much discussion about where the money would go specifically and how it could be used. It was felt that the Housing Bank may be duplicating work done by other organizations, and that there wasn't a clear mission yet. It was mentioned that there was an entirely separate movement underway to again create an island wide housing bank.

**New Business:**

- **Recording of minutes:**

Greg said that there had been a request to streamline the length of minutes taken. Janice said she would be happy to submit shorter minutes and had only been doing as she had been trained doing the minutes for the BOS. Jen said it was a stylistic choice and she often appreciated a little more detail when she needed to go back. It was agreed that Janice will still take lengthy notes in case there are questions later but will submit a synopsis as the official minutes.

**Old Business:** There was none.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Correspondence:** There were none.

**Other Business / Topics not anticipated:** There were none.

**Scheduling:** The schedule was reviewed for the upcoming meetings.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:22 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Haynes  
Administrative Assistant

*Approved 2/11/21*