

**West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting**  
**Zoom meeting**  
**January 28, 2021, 5 pm**

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

**Also present for all or part of the meeting:** Mark Friedman, Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Matt D'Andrea, Susan Stevens, Katherine DeVane, Nancy Wigglesworth, Alex Salop, Suzanne Cioffi, Richie Smith, Sara Dingley, Rebekah Thomson, Skipper Manter, Bruce Stone, Janice Haynes and other audience members who did not speak.

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

**Minutes:**

- There were no minutes to approve.

- **Budget review: Up Island Regional School District (UIRSD):**

There were questions about specific budget lines that were answered by Mark Friedman mostly, with input from others. Mark shared a highlights spreadsheet that spoke specifically to the larger increases and gave explanations. Since everyone needed was present, it was decided to review their warrant articles also. Mark again shared a spreadsheet that detailed the breakdown to each of the 3 towns and explained the requests. The committee was satisfied with the presentation and the answers they received.

No action needed to be taken.

- **Budget review: Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS):**

Sara Dingley shared the budget highlights this time and explained the 3.51% total increase. There were questions about Covid expenses and about the building itself and the shape it is in. Sara also presented the warrant articles and they were discussed. Doug R. brought up many issues that he had, including the E&D article from 2019 for the fields fund and the way the money was handled. There was lengthy, sometimes contentious discussion about the issues brought up, which the Superintendents tried to respond to. There was also an explanation of Shared Services given.

No action needed to be taken.

**New Business/ Other Business / Topics not anticipated:**

- Doug R. wanted to propose a warrant article requiring the Selectmen to raise permit fees for the Building Department. There was disagreement about the wording, and it was suggested that perhaps a non-binding referendum be presented instead. After much discussion and failed votes, it was suggested that the Finance Committee write an Op Ed piece for the paper and this warrant article be table for tonight. The deadline for submittal was imminent, the meeting had already run long, and the members could not come to agreement. Doug R. requested that a discussion about a report to Town Meeting be on a future agenda.

**Old Business:** There was none.

**Committee Reports:** There were none.

**Correspondence:** There were none.

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

*With no further items to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn and seconded.*

*Roll call vote – all in favor*

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Haynes  
Administrative Assistant

*Approved 2/11/21*