

~Approved 2-13-24~
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
January 9, 2024, 5:00 pm
via Zoom

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

Also: Bruce Stone and Janice Haynes

Greg called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm

Minutes to Approve: December 12, 2023:

There were no corrections or additions offered.

Clark moved to approve the Minutes of October 24, 2023. John Seconded. Roll call vote; All in Favor.

Reserve Fund Transfer – Select Board \$ 3,900:

Bruce explained that for many years, Ernie, the previous sound man, had been charging just \$400 for town meetings. He has retired and the new sound guy is charging closer to the going rate. This happened after this year's budget had already been approved so we need money from the reserve fund to cover the difference, and are anticipating more meetings later in the year.

Skipper moved to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer to the Select Board budget for \$ 3,900. Clark Seconded. Roll call vote; All in Favor.

New Business:

- **Budgets to be reviewed:**

Clark would like to speak with the Police Department, Fire Dept., Tri-Town Ambulance, both school committees and the Library.

Kim had some general questions that Bruce and Skipper were able to answer for her, one regarding the Select Board stipend, which as it turns out was incorrect in the budget and Bruce will fix. The other was about the Conservation Commission budget. She had a question about the MV Commission too and after discussion it was decided to call them in too.

Greg would like to speak with the Affordable Housing Committee as we have not yet received their budget. Janice says that the Select Board is aware of the late budget and are working on it. John suggested the Fin Com write a letter asking to remove leadership of the AHC, but Skipper pointed out that it was out of our purview to do so. Greg suggested they write a letter saying something to the effect of 'no budget, no narrative, you must come and explain yourselves'.

Skipper had nothing to add but suggested that John and Janice write a letter to the AHC to be sent tomorrow.

John asked about some lines in the Emergency Management budget that Bruce explained. He also asked about Bruce's accounting budget and was told that Bruce had figured in the increase for the new person starting when he retires.

Clark pointed out that the overall budget increases were not too bad considering how everything is increasing these days.

After all discussion was done the list for who should be called in is as follows:

- Police Department
- Fire Dept.
- Tri-Town Ambulance
- both school committees
- Library
- MV Commission

Janice will start scheduling those meetings this week.

- **All Island Fin Com:**

Greg explained how it had worked in the past and said that he had a request from Mark Friedman (MVRHS) to have a joint meeting to discuss the school budgets rather than them trying to meet separately with all the towns. Greg ultimately said he didn't feel West Tisbury should be responsible for coordinating it. Skipper suggested the school host a meeting and invite all the Fin Com chairs to have a joint meeting. The committee agreed and it was left to them.

Old Business:

- **Report of the Finance Committee for the Annual Town Report:**

Skipper felt it was a little wordy and had a few questions and small corrections to make. He had to leave early before he could go over all of them and the board agreed to allow him to will work with Janice to make small corrections later. Janice pointed out a couple of small corrections also. Greg reminded everyone that in the past they have sometimes sent the report as a letter to the editor in the papers. It was felt that it was unnecessary this year as there were no big topics to explain.

Greg moved to approve the Finance Committee Annual Report for 2023 as edited and allow Skipper and Janice to make small additions and corrections before submitting it. Clark Seconded. Roll call vote; All in Favor.

- **Preliminary budget review scheduling dates:**

It was decided that Tuesdays and Thursdays were the best for everyone. Next Tuesday 1/16 was felt to be too short a notice what with the holiday Monday, so the first date will be

Thursday 1/18 and then Tuesday 1/23 and Thursday 1/25. Janice will start contacting the department discussed earlier and set up the meetings.

Committee Reports:

- Clark said that the MVRHS committee met and certified their budget yesterday. No one else had anything to report.

Topics Unanticipated:

- Greg spoke about the Reserve Fund and proposed that they vote to raise it from \$ 50 thousand to \$ 75 as expenses will only go up. The committee discussed and agreed.

Greg moved to raise the Reserve Fund to \$ 75,000. Clark Seconded. Roll call vote; All in Favor (4-0-0 as Skipper had left)

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Haynes
Administrative Assistant