

**West Tisbury Finance Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**Zoom meeting**  
**December 13, 2022, 5:00 pm**  
~ Approved 1/10/2023~

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

**Absent:** Cathy Minkiewicz

**Also:** Bruce Stone and Janice Haynes

Greg called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm

**Minutes:**

- **Vote to approve the Minutes of November 15, 2022:**  
There were no edits or corrections.

*John moved to approve the Minutes of November 15, 2022. Clark seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.*

**New Business:**

- **Letter from Chuck Hodgkinson:**

Greg thought it was interesting and well-constructed but feels that it is nothing that they as a committee need to weigh-in on at this time. John addressed Chuck's mention of CPA funds and feels that if we take the short-term rental tax money to pay down the tax levy as Chuck suggests, we may need it for something else. Clark doesn't like that we are playing with money that we have only just begun to get and the fact that we (the town) doesn't know what they want to do with it yet.

There was little discussion of Doug Ruskin's letter correcting Chuck's claims, but John did say that he actually agrees with him.

- **Finance Committee Budget for 2024:**

Greg explained the changes to the budget and where the reductions happened.

*Clark moved to approve the 2024 Finance Committee budget. John seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.*

- **Scheduling of Budget Hearings:**

Bruce can have all the budgets to the committee by about January 4<sup>th</sup> and we can decide at the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting who we will want to call in to meet with us. Greg went over last years schedule to remind everyone how it went. No action taken.

- **Level funding of the UIRSD OPEB line:**

Skipper spoke about the background of the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) funding plan and explained that the Up Island Regional School Committee want to skip this years \$50,000 payment. Aquinnah and Chilmark have already approved the request. He says the school committee discusses skipping the payment every year but this is the first time they have made a formal request. After discussion the board was split in their thinking.

*Clark moved to allow the UIRSD to waive the OBEP payment for one year only. John seconded. Roll call vote; Clark and John voted in favor, Greg and Skipper – Nay. Tie vote.*

**Old Business:** There was none.

**Topics Unanticipated:** John asked everyone to turn in their priority worksheets.

**Committee Reports:**

- **MV Commission:** John spoke about a letter from Adam Turner explaining the litigation which will increase their budget legal line.
- **CPC:** John says they are way behind and that the requests are down. They will be having a hearing in January.
- **UIRSD:** Greg says budgets are all they are talking about and mentioned that the Chilmark student population has grown from approximately 50 – 70 kids.
- **MVRHS:** Clark says they are also all about budget and warrant articles which include a \$2 million feasibility study and OPEB. He did say that he thought they were doing a pretty good job of keeping the budget down. There was some discussion of the State funding application process and the deadlines to be met.

**Correspondence:**

- There was none.

**Schedule:** Next meeting will be January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

Skipper invited everyone for egg-nog, drive-by, Saturday December 16<sup>th</sup>, 6 – 8 pm.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:03 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Haynes  
Administrative Assistant