

~Approved 3-1-22~
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
Zoom meeting
February 17, 2022, 5:00 pm

In Attendance: John Christensen, Doug Ruskin, Cathy Minkiewicz, Greg Orcutt, and Clark Rattet

Also present: Jen Rand, Bruce Stone, Skipper Manter and Janice Haynes

Greg called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm

Approval of Minutes:

- **January 18, 2022:**

Doug offered some edits which Janice will make.

Clark moved to approve the minutes of January 18, 2022 as amended. John seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.

- **January 20, 2022:**

There were no edits or questions offered.

Clark moved to approve the minutes of January 20, 2022. Seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.

- **January 25, 2022:**

Doug offered some edits which Janice will make.

Clark moved to approve the minutes of January 25, 2022 as amended. Seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.

Budget Review:

Greg explained that they would go section by section and flag any lines that wanted further discussion before voting.

- **100 Series:**

Doug moved to preliminarily approve all of section 100, except line 141-5305 the Assessors legal line. Clark Seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor

There was discussion about the Assessors legal line. Cathy after thought feels they should approve it as is. Doug reiterated his beliefs that the money could be gotten from reserve funds or stabilization funds. His opinion was no reflection on their work. Greg wants to vote no based on the fact that the Board of Assessors would not meet with them.

Clark then moved to not recommend line 141-5305 the Assessors legal line. Before it could be seconded Doug moved to amend the motion to recommend the Assessors change the line to \$15,000. Clark seconded.

John then moved to amend the motion to recommend the Assessors change the line to \$20,000. Cathy seconded. Roll call vote to the amendment: Greg – nay, Doug – nay, Clark – yes, Cathy – yes, John – yes. (3-2-0)

On the vote to preliminarily recommend line 141-5305 the Assessors legal line: Greg – nay, all others – yes. (4-1-0)

After more discussion the subject of the Zoning Board of Appeals legal line came up and it was thought that they should be asking for more.

John moved to recommend line 176-5305 the Zoning Board legal line be raised to \$5,000.

But Greg pointed out that they should wait to vote until they had spoken to the ZBA. John withdrew his motion. Janice will send a letter to the ZBA Admin Assistant asking them to vote on it at their next meeting.

- **200 Series:**

There was some discussion about the Tri-Town Ambulance budget (it went up)

Clark moved to preliminarily approve all of section 200. John Seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.

- **300 Series:**

School budgets; Clark suggested they skip for now.

- **400 Series:**

No discussion

Clark moved to preliminarily approve all of section 400. Greg Seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.

- **500 Series:**

No discussion

Clark moved to preliminarily approve all of section 500. Greg Seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.

- **600 Series:**

No discussion

Clark moved to preliminarily approve all of section 600. Greg Seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.

- **700 Series:**

No discussion

Clark moved to preliminarily approve all of section 700. Greg Seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.

- **900 Series:**
No discussion

Clark moved to preliminarily approve all of section 900. Greg Seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor

- **Back to 300 Series: School budgets:**
- **UIRSD budget:** Discussion about the fact that they did not take our recommendation on the E & D funds. Doug does not want to approve. Cathy thinks they cannot use the budget as a punitive tool when they came to the Fin Com in good faith.

Clark moved to preliminarily approve the UIRSD budget. Greg Seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.

- **MVRHS budget:**
Doug has lost all faith in the school committee and the Superintendent's Office and hasn't forgiven the snubs. He says the only way they will hear them is to be told no. He wants to send a message. Clark feels the point should be made at school committee meetings. After more discussion the vote was called.

Clark moved to preliminarily approve the MVRHS budget. Greg Seconded. Roll call vote; Doug – nay. The others in favor. (4-1-0)

New Business:

- **Warrant Articles:**
The committee decided they wanted to speak with the Sheriff's Department on their article and also the County. John also requested the Energy Committee come speak about their 3 articles. It was decided to change the next meeting from Tuesday 2/22 to Thursday 2/24 for more time to get people in to speak with them on the articles they flag.
- **Opinion Editorial and/or open meeting:**
It was decided to use the Fin Com annual report and send it to the papers. They will review and edit at a later date to be published closer to Annual Town Meeting. They decided not to hold an open forum. Janice recommended handouts for ATM of the same report.

Scheduling:

The next meetings will be Thursday 2/24 and Tuesday March 1st.

Committee Reports: None

Topics Not Anticipated: There were none.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:33 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Haynes
Administrative Assistant