

West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
Zoom meeting
February 2, 2021, 6:15 pm

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

Also present for all or part of the meeting: Jen Rand, Richard Cohen, Dawn Barnes, Skipper Manter, Alexandra Pratt, Bruce Stone, Wendy Nierenberg, Mike Colanari, Janice Haynes and other audience members who did not speak.

Greg called the meeting to order at 6:15 pm

Minutes:

- There were no minutes to approve.

- **Budget review: Board of Assessors:**

Dawn spoke to give a brief explanation of what the Board of Assessors does. The main question for them was regarding the legal line of their budget and Dawn explained that the board considers it an insurance policy and pointed out that if it is used it does go back into the general fund. The Board of Assessors are the department that creates value for the town. She referenced the very large case from a few years ago. Doug R. said that the committee does not think that the job is being done badly but pointed out that there is legal money available thru the Board of Selectmen and thru reserve fund transfers. There was discussion about the tax levy and tax exemptions. Dawn reiterated her offer to meet with the Finance Committee to answer questions and give explanations and Greg said he wants to do that before the new fiscal year begins.

No action needed to be taken.

- **Budget review: Library:**

Alexandra explained about the services the Library has been providing during the time of Covid and how because of the precautions everything takes longer. Circulation and programing have been high despite Covid and they have been doing more Zoom programs which she would like to continue. There was discussion about the budget and she pointed out that the personnel line is up mostly because of the step increases adjusted last year, and the materials line must go up yearly for them to qualify for state aid and grants. Bruce pointed out that much of their programing is covered by donations from The Friends, Foundation and grants.

New Business/ Other Business / Topics not anticipated:

- Greg asked Jen when they might get copies of the warrant articles and she said that she could have them emailed tomorrow as they have most of the final language already.

Old Business: There was none.

Committee Reports: There were none officially given but Clark mentioned that at the last MVR school committee meeting there was much discussion about accountability due to Doug R.'s comments from the previous meeting.

Correspondence: There were none.

Scheduling: It was requested that we set the dates for the upcoming warrant review at the next meeting..

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Haynes
Administrative Assistant

Approved 2/11/21