

~Draft~
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
February 23, 2023, 5:00 pm
via Zoom

Present: Greg Orcutt, Skipper Manter, John Christensen, Cathy Minkiewicz and Clark Rattet (Clark arrived late and missed voting on the minutes)

Also: Leon Brathwaite, Alex Salop, Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Mark Friedman, Richie Smith, Jeffrey Dubard, Mary Boyd, Bruce Stone and Janice Haynes

Greg called the meeting to order at 5:02 pm

Minutes to approve: February 13th, 2023:

Skipper had edits on article # 23 discussion, article # 27 discussion, and the vote on article # 40. Janice will make the corrections.

Greg moved to approve the Minutes of February 13th, 2023 as amended. John seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor. (4-0-0)

Review of warrant articles with questions:

- **Leon Brathwaite for the Personnel Board; Article # 5: 10% wage increase:**

Leon says they were looking for ways to increase salaries and looked at dropping the first 2 steps and adding 2 more at the top end. They settled upon asking for a 10 % increase across the board. There was much discussion. Skipper said it was a one time increase to the base and thinks it's the best way to show appreciation for the long-time employees of West Tisbury. Cathy thinks this is fiscally irresponsible to do this.

Skipper moved to recommend article # 5. John seconded. Roll call vote; 4 in favor, Cathy voted Nay. (4-1-0)

- **Jeffrey Dubard for the Affordable Housing Committee; Article # 19: Accessory Housing grants:**

Jefrey explained the reasoning for the article. This will give people incentive to build permanently restricted dwellings. This would be a 1 year pilot program. He was asked for details on how the program would be administered and Jefrey answered what he could. After discussion the committee felt they did not have enough info to make a recommendation and asked Jefrey to come back with more details. No action taken.

- **Marc Rosenbaum for Article # 51; the petition for a Construction Noise Bylaw:**

Skipper was uncomfortable with the enforcement issue; he says it will cost the town money for police and the zoning inspector to respond. Most of the committee felt it was impractical.

Clark moved to recommend Article #51. Greg seconded. Roll call vote; One in favor (Clark), the rest voted Nay. (1-4-0)

Greg then moved to not recommend Article #51. Skipper seconded. Roll call vote; 4 in favor and Clark voted nay. (4-1-0)

- **Article #21- UIRSD Space needs study:**

The school needs to meet the energy efficient goal of the town and an energy assessment was done. They realized they couldn't come up with numbers for the cost to do this themselves and decided a space needs study was the best way to go. They want to model after the one that was done for the high school a few years ago. There was much discussion and Bruce mentioned that the Capital Improvements Committee had given the project a low priority as they wanted more info on timing and the debt for other projects.

Clark moved to recommend Article #21. John seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor. (5-0-0)

- **Article #39 County HealthCare Access building improvements:**

Skipper said that the county had come up with the money to fund the hiring of an OPM for the project so we had cancelled speaking with them as our issue was now moot.

Skipper moved to recommend Article #39 with an OPM. Greg seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor. (5-0-0)

Skipper also mentioned that the Howes House article had been withdrawn.

New Business: There was none

Old Business:

- **Final edit of the annual report :**

Greg and Skipper made a few edits that John fixed on the spot.

Greg moved to approve the Finance Committee annual report as edited. Clark seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor

Topics Unanticipated:

- Greg mentioned that the school had lowered the insurance assessment and wanted to know where that extra money goes? It was decided to put on next agenda to discuss.

Committee Reports: There were none.

Correspondence: There was none.

Schedule: The next meeting will be Thursday march second with Jeffrey Dubard to finalize the vote on article # 19

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:48 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Haynes
Administrative Assistant

Editorial Note: Article numbers may have changed after these votes due to re-organization of the warrant later. Please refer to the final warrant for the revised numbers.