

**West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting**  
**Phone in conference call**  
**April 13, 2020**

**In Attendance:** Jane Dreeben, Gary Montrowl, Greg Orcutt, Doug Ruskin, and Clark Rattet

**Also present:** Bruce Stone, Skipper Manter

Greg Orcutt called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Greg explained the discussion at last weeks Selectmen meeting that he and Doug had attended where the FY21 Budget came up for discussion. It was decided that a letter would be sent jointly from the Selectmen, Financial Management team and the Fin Com to the Department heads and Regional entities asking them to review their budgets and make cuts where they can. Greg said a draft letter had been sent out by Jen and hoped everyone had a chance to read it. Everyone agreed that it was a good letter but agreed that it should be more assertive. Doug said that he thought it should be a requirement that they look at budgets and suggested a cut of some percentage. He said he doesn't really know what number they should throw out there, no one does. There's too much uncertainty about what's going to happen. Gary pointed out that other municipalities can and have mandated budget cuts.

Everyone agreed that they are most concerned about the school budgets. Doug asked if the Selectmen would be on board for making budget cuts a requirement? Bruce pointed out that some budget lines cannot be cut /changed, but there are some areas that can cut more. Large percentage of budget does come from Regional entities. Skipper said that the Selectmen would be a little uncomfortable with using the word 'demand' and feels that people would respond better if asked first. He also believes the key is the school system and doesn't feel that significant cuts will come from the Town departments. Greg asked if Skipper had heard anything about budget cuts at any of the MVRSD meetings he had attended. Skip said that it had been on the agenda but was not discussed.

Gary asked a procedural question; if changes do happen to budget will they (Fin Com) have to re-vote the entire budget? Bruce explained that it would go to town meeting as is, but there would be a large amendment list, that would be published ahead of time and given to the voters at ATM.

Gary said that he sees both sides, and is ok with Skipper suggesting being polite first but wanted to be sure that if no cuts come they follow up with a much stronger letter. Skipper said that the 'demand' letter may have to come after ATM because the voters must decide if they are happy with the budget presented. If they vote it down, then everyone will have to rework it.

Jane asked if Warrant Articles would also be looked at? Bruce said yes, the letter suggested they look at those too.

**Doug made the motion** for the Fin Com to participate in a joint letter from the Selectmen, Financial Management team and the Fin Com, with suggested amendments from this meeting, to be sent to the Department heads and Regional.

**Clark Second. Roll call vote – all in favor.**

**New Business:** None.

**Correspondence:** None.

With no further items to discuss, Clark made the motion to adjourn. Doug seconded.

**Roll call vote – all in favor**

Meeting adjourned at 5:33 pm

*Approved 11/16/20*

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Haynes  
Administrative Assistant  
4/14/20