

West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting - Minutes
At the Howes House
May 28, 2019
-Approved 7/9/19-

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

Guests: Bruce Stone, Skipper Manter, Manny Estrella

Gary Montrowl, Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Approval of the Minutes was deferred to next meeting as everyone had not had a chance to review them yet.

- **Old Business:**

- **Reserve Fund Transfer 1;**

Manny Estrella requested \$10,000. To replace WTFD funds used to pay for a rental emergency generator at Station 2. Bruce explained that when the generator stopped working last September it was thought that it could be repaired, but by December it was determined that it would have to be replaced, and that the procedure was to put it out to bid which would take time. It was decided that a temporary rental generator would be needed. He stated that Jen Rand had requested Manny pay for it out of his budget which he did. Manny said that he felt it was taking too long to get a new generator, and eventually decided he did not want to pay for the rental any longer and had it removed and returned. He was now asking for reserve fund moneys because he usually used money left at the end of the fiscal year to buy new gear for the department.

The committee agreed that it was taking too long and wondered why. The also felt that the Public Safety building should not be without a backup generator. Skipper asked about getting the rental back, but Manny said it would cost \$6000. to rewire again. Doug wanted it noted that this was an unconscionable situation and wanted to write a letter to the Selectmen. Skipper said that he would push to have the issue brought up at the next Selectmen's meeting, tho it may not happen at the 5/29 meeting since the agenda was already quite full. Doug will write the letter and Greg will approve it.

Doug said that regardless of how they felt, Manny needed the money now. He made the motion to approve the transfer of funds. Greg seconded.

The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- **Reserve Fund Transfer 2;**

A request from Tony Cordray (ACO) for \$3,000. to cover personnel expenses till the end of the fiscal year.

Bruce explained that they had a new 'On-call' system with the ACO Assistants rather than working shifts, which actually saved the town money. But, because of Tony's knee

surgery, there were extra shifts that the assistants had had to cover. Also, Kate was doing training off island and her time was unaccounted for in the budget.

Greg made a motion to approve the transfer of funds. Jane seconded.
The motion passed unanimously 5-0.

- **Special Town Meeting Articles**
- **Article 1: MVRHS School Committee E&D funds to cover budget deficits. (see attached for details)**

Doug made a motion to recommend the Article. Jane seconded.

Discussion followed as to why the town was having another STM. Skipper explained the bylaw about E&D funds approval. They all agreed that it was fiscal mismanagement on the part of the School Committee. Doug allowed as how he was changing his mind and thought they should NOT recommend the article, to send a message, even tho it would probably pass at STM if they got a quorum. They all agreed.

Gary called for the vote to recommend. **It failed 5 – 0.**

Greg then made the motion to NOT recommend the Article. Doug seconded.
The vote was 5 – 0 to NOT recommend Article 1.

- **Article 2: MVRHS Busses (see attached for details)**

Doug moved to recommend. Greg seconded it.

There was little discussion (it had been touched on in the previous discussion of Article 1) Bruce offered some clarification on lease vs. purchase.

The vote was 3 – 2 to Recommend with Doug and Jane opposed.

- **Annual Budget Cycle Post Mortem.**

Gary asked them to review the past cycle and all concluded that they were pleased with how it went and satisfied with the process. Skipper acknowledged that the vibe was not as negative as in the past and he appreciated their professionalism having been to many Fin Com meetings over the years.

- **Chair Succession**

Gary explained their 2 year term limits and how they had chosen to cycle the Chair position every 2 years by seniority. The next most senior would be Vice-Chair so as to

'train' for the position and everyone would get a chance as long as they kept getting voted in.

Since it was set as policy there was no need to take a vote and Greg was named as the new Chair with Doug becoming Vice-Chair.

- **New Business:**
- Doug asked about their plan to thank Chuck Hodgkins since he retired. Discussion followed, beer was mentioned, and Greg will contact Chuck for his schedule so that they can plan a time and place.
- Doug also requested they consider having formal planning sessions before the next budget cycle meetings with the departments so as to discuss their approach. He wanted to start early, perhaps in June? They agreed that it was a good idea but came to no conclusion as to when except that it should be before October.

The next meeting date was discussed (June 11). It was decided to figure it out by email later.

With no further items to discuss, Greg moved to adjourn. Seconded by Doug.

Approved unanimously 5-0

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Janice Haynes
Administrative Assistant

5/29/19