

# **Town of West Tisbury Finance Committee**

MINUTES -- August 14, 2020

A regular meeting of the West Tisbury Finance Committee was held on August 14, 2020, 5:00 PM.

*PRESENT: Doug Ruskin, Greg Orcutt, Clark Rattet,  
ALSO PRESENT: Skipper Manter, Doug Finn*

Mr. Orcutt called the meeting to order at 5:05 PM. Role taken, a quorum was declared.

## **I. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meetings**

The minutes from the AIFC Meeting from August 12 were distributed, but not approved.

## **II. New Business**

### ***-Welcome to John Christensen***

Mr. Christensen was not present, but his addition to the Committee was welcomed.

### ***-Appointment to serve out Jane Dreeben's Term***

Given Ms. Dreeben's resignation from the committee, a replacement was required. It was MOVED by Orcutt, SECONDED by Rattet

*To recommend to the Board of Selectmen that Mr. Douglas Finn be appointed to serve out the remainder of Ms. Dreeben's term.*

VOTED: 3, 0, 0.

### ***-Review of Committee Assignments***

Mr. Orcutt noted that Finance Committee members also serve as representatives on other committees, as follows:

- CPC (formerly Gary Montrose)(Voting) - Doug Ruskin (tentative)
- UIRSD - Mr. Orcutt
- MVRHS - Mr. Rattet, John Christensen (alternate)
- Capital Improvements (Voting) Mr. Rattet
- Selectmen - Mr. Orcutt
- MVC (Finance Committee) - Doug Finn (Tentative)

## ***-All Island Fin Com Follow-up - Athletic Fields Project***

Members and Mr. Manter engaged in discussion related to the project, as presented at the All Island Finance Committee Meeting, with some concern raised as to whether the project had been fairly presented, and the absence of any representative from the schools. Mr. Ruskin noted that the meeting was held to allow for an exploration of the project from a financial perspective, and that financial numbers for maintenance were confusing at best, and that information appears to be missing. Mr. Manter noted that there was significant information missing that was not presented. There was ongoing discussion and debate, with the final consensus being that more information was needed in order to get a clear picture of the proposal. It was noted that another AIFC meeting would be scheduled for September.

There were some questions from Mr. Rattet about other topics discussed at the meeting. Mr. Ruskin relayed some of the history of the project, and the types of review the project will see. Mr. Finn noted that the financial impact of the project could be part of the review by the MV Commission. Mr. Orcutt noted that the project review isn't over yet, either at the MV Commission or at the Oak Bluffs Planning Board. All agreed that the AIFC meeting was a success by any measure.

### **III. Old Business**

No old business was presented.

### **IV. Committee Reports**

Mr. Ruskin: A September meeting of the AIFC needs to be scheduled. Mr. Finn was asked to determine and schedule a date for the next AIFC; also, comparative costs for rebuilding of athletic fields from other communities was needed, including budgets for maintenance as well as construction. Mr. Ruskin asked if the Finance Committee would like to render an opinion on the project to the MVC, noting that the answer to that question would drive the work undertaken by the AIFC. There was discussion about whether it was appropriate to render an opinion, or whether there was enough data at this point to decide. After discussion, the Committee determined to continue working on finding data.

Mr. Manter noted that the Schools would likely be very busy through the month of September, if not beyond. Mr. Ruskin suggested that a letter be written (and shared with other finance committees to endorse) to the MVC to suggest, given the challenges faced by the schools, and the concern about the information received thus far, a delay on the public hearing of at least 60 days. Mr. Manter noted that it was very unlikely that the project would proceed quickly, given the circumstances.

### **V. Correspondence/Scheduling**

Mr. Rattet made note of recent discussions on various topics relative to the high school, including computer leasing, and the arrangements around school reopening and Covid-19

concerns. Mr. Manter noted that the financial adjustments being made to accommodate Covid-19 concerns could be handled under the current budget, transportation excluded. There was some discussion related to the financial costs of the Covid-19 pandemic, across multiple industries and sectors.

Mr. Orcutt noted that the next FinComm meeting would be September 8, 5 PM.

## **VI. Any Topic Not Anticipated by the Chair**

No business was presented.

## **VII. Adjourn**

At 6:06 PM, Mr. Orcutt left the meeting.

In the absence of a quorum, Mr. Ruskin declared the meeting ADJOURNED. (6:07 PM)

*Approved 11/16/20*

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Finn, Clerk Pro Temp