

~Approved 10-12-21~
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
Zoom meeting
September 14, 2021, 5:00 pm

In Attendance: Greg Orcutt, Cathy Minkiewicz, John Christensen, Doug Ruskin, and Clark Rattet

Also present: Skipper Manter, Jen Rand, Bruce Stone, and Janice Haynes

Greg called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Minutes:

- **Minutes of June 8:** There were no questions or corrections.

John made the motion to approve the Minutes of June 8, 2021. Clark seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.

- **Minutes of July 13th:** Doug pointed out that he wasn't present at the meeting for one of the votes as he arrived late. Janice will make the correction.

Clark made the motion to approve the Minutes of July 13, 2021 as amended. John seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.

New Business:

- **Discussion of the Finance Committee Town Bylaw:**

Doug believes that the committee should be discussing any topics that involve money, even if they are not in the current budget as they will affect the town. He mentioned the MVRHS field project specifically that he believes has an impact for the town. After discussion, he is withdrawing his request to change the bylaw but he wants to continue to discuss these issues.

John pointed out that he feels the committee has not done most of the items mentioned in their Annual Town Report and feels that they should stay in their lane. If the item is egregious they should take a look at it. Cathy and Clark agreed. Doug asked what is our lane? He believes if it is financial it is within their purview. After further discussion all agreed they would not pursue a change to the town bylaw and they would begin to work on the items mentioned in the town report. No vote needed.

- **Discussion of fee schedules from permitting town departments:**

Greg feels that West Tisbury should not have the lowest permit fees on island. Jen explained how fees work in her department and some others. She pointed out that the short-term rental tax has brought in revenue and the tax on marijuana sales. Bruce offered some info also. There was more discussion. Skipper stated again that in his opinion, costs are covered by taxes; you don't get a credit if you don't use them and you don't pay more if you do.

John made the motion to table the discussion indeterminately. Greg seconded. Roll call vote; 4 in favor, one Nay (Doug Ruskin) (4-1-0))

- **Tri Town Ambulance Funding Presentation:**

Ben explained the different formulas that the committee had come up with to divide the costs to the 3 towns for the building of the new ambulance barn in Chilmark. He said they are also looking at splitting the revenues differently based on call volume. Doug feels that this should all be decided at Annual Town meeting, not by the boards and committees only. No action taken.

Old Business:

- **Confirmation of Committee Assignments:**

The assignments were decided as follows:

- Cathy will continue as rep to the Select Board, and gave a brief report. She will forward her more detailed notes to Janice to distribute to the other members.
- Greg will continue as the rep to the UIRSD Committee
- Doug will continue as the rep to the Community Preservation Committee
- Clark will continue as the rep to the MVRHS Committee
- John will take on the MV Commission as his assignment

Correspondence: Janice says she receives the MA Municipal Association Newsletter and The Beacon each month by email and asked if the members wanted them forwarded to them. They did and she will.

Topics Not Anticipated: There were none, but Greg asked Jen how long it was expected that Zoom meetings would continue? She thinks at least thru the end of the year.

Scheduling: Did not discuss.

Public Comment: There was none.

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

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Haynes
Administrative Assistant