

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes September 4, 2007

Present: Al DeVito - chair, Richard Knabel, Sharon Estrella, Brian Athearn and Ann Nelson.

Guests: Bruce Stone – Town Accountant.

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

Minutes of the August 7 meeting were approved with correction.

Al informed the committee of correspondence received since the last meeting, including legal letters pertaining to ???

Expenses-to-date are \$149 for the dues to the Finance Committees group.

There will be a meeting of all island FinComs on Tuesday, September 11, 4pm at the Tisbury Senior Center.

FY09 Budget Process:

FinCom members continue to discuss ways to effectively inform and serve the taxpayers. Al posed the question, “What is the financial goal of West Tisbury and what is the process to arrive there?” Members jointly have concern for the financial future for West Tisbury.

Richard expressed his interest in a broader conversation in the town concerning finances and taxes. Perhaps holding two different forum meetings, one during the day, the other in the evening, to reach as many voters as possible.

Sharon felt people who did not come to the Annual Town Meeting thought there would be ballot questions they could vote on. She questioned how to get a question on the ballot.

Richard said a ballot question requires a petition process, or can be put on by the Board of Selectmen. The BoS has complete control on how the budget is presented to the voters.

Sharon would like to ask the selectmen for access to town counsel to get ballot procedure questions answered.

Al then presented for discussion the mailing of letters to departments for the FY09 budget review. The overall value of this process was questioned. Should there be budget meetings? If so, how should they be held?

There being no other business, a motion for adjournment was made and seconded.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:30.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Rogers, Administrative Clerk