

Minutes
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
January 6, 2009

Present: Al DeVito - chair, Ann Nelson, Sharon Estrella, Brian Athearn and Greg Orcutt.
Guests: Bruce Stone, Town Accountant; Eric Whitman and Julie Keefe, ZBA; Simone DeSorcy and David Douglas, Planning Board; Prudy Burt and Maria MacFarland, Conservation Commission.

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

ZBA Budget:

Ann commended Eric and Julie for lowering the budget. Julie noted that the MV Times has offered a deduction for advertising, which helped get the budget down.

Greg, seconded by Sharon, made a motion to preliminarily approve the ZBA budget. The motion passed 5-0.

Other business:

The upcoming budget meetings schedule was discussed and revised to accommodate dept. heads.

Al's Annual Report for the town Report was approved.

Al reported that he and Greg had met with John Snyder, President of the all Island Finance Assoc., who is still looking for regular participation of all the FinComs. There will be a meeting at 4:30 on Wednesday, January 21 at the Tisbury Senior Center.

Minutes:

Minutes of the September 9, October 7 and December 9 meetings were approved.

Planning Board:

A question was raised about the \$200 increase in line item #5302, Professional Training & Technical (training/seminars) to which Simone explained that she would be taking a course in Excel. Bruce stated that the increase in travel was based on actual expenses this year. There is a decrease in line item #5346, Communication-Notices (ads), from \$2000 to \$12000. Simone explained that she has to guess at the number of ads she will have to run and that she thought this was a more accurate amount. Simone and David noted that the Planning Board has reinserted line item #5305, Legal Services, for \$2000. This line item had recently been placed in the BoS budget at \$2500, but it proved to be a cumbersome process to have legal bills paid that way.

A motion was made by Ann, seconded by Brian, to preliminarily approve the Planning Board budget. The motion passed 5-0.

Forum:

The forum has been set for Saturday, April 4 from 10:00 - 12:00 at the Howes House. The schools will be invited to attend. It was suggested that there be 3 or 4 items decided in advance to discuss. These should include the possibility of a paper ballot at town meetings, revenue, the Capital Improvements Committee and a presentation from Kathy Logue about the post retirement benefits.

Conservation Commission:

Al asked if the Commission was planning on doing a survey. Maria answered that they were planning to send a survey to the town's street list, the budget for which was set using figures Jen has from her own mailings. Prudy noted that they will base it on a similar survey done by Oak Bluffs, with the notion to get a feel on people's thoughts on open land.

When asked about '09 revenue, Maria explained that she did not have the figure with her, but that there would be some from permitting fees.

A motion was made by Brian, seconded by Greg, to preliminarily approve the Conservation Commission budget. The motion passed 5-0.

The next meeting is Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 4:30pm.

There being no other business, a motion for adjournment was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 5:35pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Rogers, Administrative Clerk