

**Minutes**  
**West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting**  
**January 11, 2011**  
**Public Safety Building**

Present: Sharon Estrella - chair, Al DeVito, Greg Orcutt and Jonathan Revere.

Guests: Bruce Stone, Town Accountant; Richard Knabel, Cynthia Mitchell and Skipper Manter, BoS; Jen Rand, Executive Secretary; Chief Dan Rossi, WT Police; Chief Randi Belain, Aquinnah Police; Chief Brian Cioffi, Chilmark Police; Dianne Powers and Bruce Haynes, Tri-Town Ambulance Board; Bob Belanger, Tri-Town Ambulance Deputy Chief; Barbara Silk, Tri-Town Ambulance Admin. Asst.; Chris Cini and Betsy MacDonald, Tri-Town Ambulance EMT's; John Christensen, Emergency Management.

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

**Police Dept.**

Chief Rossi explained that the airport, under contract, pays for the summer curbside directly to the town. This money goes to the general fund. The chief is planning to move a sergeant from current staff to the position of corporal.

Al questioned the increase in line #5300 Professional & Technical. This is primarily for the IT service. Al also asked about line #5600 Intergovernmental Assessments. Bruce will clarify this at a future meeting.

Al commended Chief Rossi on the clarity and organization of his budget. Greg added that the narrative answered questions he had had. Richard Knabel also commended the chief.

Al made a motion, seconded by Jonathan, to preliminary approve the police dept. budget. The motion passed 4-0.

The police dept. will have a warrant article to replace a cruiser, and one regarding the tactical force team.

**Tri-Town Ambulance**

Due to the presence of the Tri-Town Ambulance Board, Chief Belain called to order a meeting of that board at 4:31.

Discussion centered on the restructuring of the Tri-Town Ambulance service from basic to advanced live support. Advanced life support requires 2 paramedics, two 40-hour EMT's and two 30-hour EMT's. Basic EMT's who could perform limited medical assistance would provide basic service.

The Tri-Town budget has increased by 60%. About 80% of that increase is for personal services involved in the hiring of full-time and part-time year round EMT's with benefits.

Sharon questioned why Tri-Town didn't have an on-duty paramedic at all times. This would eliminate the need to pay Tisbury for coverage. She suggested that the Tri-Town paramedics cover the night shift. Chief Cioffi explained that the night medic is a volunteer position and that volunteers could not be forced to cover. A paid employee would have to take the night shift. Sharon suggested going back to a basic service. Bruce Haynes felt that would be a huge step backwards. He stated that basic EMT's were not being shut out, but in fact were needed. He further commented that the service was about patient care and getting people to the hospital alive.

Richard Knabel recognized the community need for service, but felt the budget increase was jarring. He pointed out the restructuring of Tri-town from a year ago had not been implemented. He would like to see that given a try before going to another change. He would also like to see significant budget changes come from a larger discussion earlier in the process. Dianne explained that there has been forward movement, but that change has been met with resistance. The board felt this was the best next step.

The FinCom members would like to have more information and would like to know how the other two towns respond to this.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Jonathan, to not preliminarily approve the Tri-Town Ambulance budget. The motion passed 4-0.

At 5:32 Chief Belain asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting of the Tri-Town Ambulance. A motion was made by Dianne Powers and seconded by Chief Rossi to that effect. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Emergency Management**

John explained that line #5302 Professional & Technical (training/seminars) reflected money to cover travel costs for attending seminars. The seminars are themselves usually free. Line #5730 Dues & Memberships has been restored to the FY10 amount. Line #5490 Food & Food Service Supplies is to provide to FEMA representatives who come down for FEMA related meetings. Line #5780 Other Unclassified Items is for West Tisbury's share of the island-wide reverse 911 assessment.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Jonathan, to preliminarily approve the Emergency Management budget. The motion passed 4-0.

### **Minutes**

Minutes of the December 14 meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Other Business**

There was discussion to continue with scheduling and rescheduling budget meetings.

Brian Athearn has submitted his resignation from the FinCom. Jen will advertise for a replacement to fill out his term.

### **Future meeting**

Tuesday, January 18 and 25, 4:30 at the Public Safety Building.

There being no other business, a motion for adjournment was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:48pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy Rogers, Administrative Clerk