

**Minutes**  
**West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting**  
**January 18, 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; Joyce Bowker, UICOA; Dr. James Weiss, MV Superintendent of Schools; Laurie Halt, Asst. Superintendent; Amy Tierney MV Schools Treasurer; Steve Nixon, Principal, MVRHS; Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Acting Principal, WT School; Sean Mulvey, interim Asst. Principal, WT School; Susan Steven, Principal, Chilmark School; Dan Seklecki, Director Student Support Services; Dan Cabot, member UIRSD.

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

**Reserve Funds Transfer**

Joyce needed to request an additional \$1,045 to update the alarm system as there are two contracts, one for the alarms and one for the installation. Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Al, to approve the transfer. The motion passed 4-0.

**UIRSD**

Dr. Weiss explained that though the overall budget for the UIRSD is up only 2.1%, West Tisbury's share would be up 4.5% as a function of the assessment formula. The 2.1% increase included a new teacher for the Chilmark school as well as raises and insurance.

Greg asked for a projection of student enrollment based on this year's census. Dr. Weiss responded that an enrollment projection formula is used annually based on birthrates. Using this formula, WT should remain about the same. Since Chilmark is so small, the formula is not useful, however, enrollment there is expected to increase.

Jonathan asked if there were any expenses in the budget for the Chilmark pre-school. Amy explained that only the usual building costs such as heat, electricity, etc. She added that the town of Chilmark pays \$1,000 annually to the UIRSD for the pre-school. Other costs are the responsibility of the parents. Jonathan stated that he would like to see some dialog between Amy and Bruce Stone to format the UIRSD budget similarly to that of the town budget to make it easier to understand.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Greg, to preliminarily approve the UIRSD budget. The motion failed 1-2-1.

Al moved, seconded by Greg, to not preliminarily approve the UIRSD budget. The motion passed 3-0-1.

Dr. Weiss asked what the next step would be in this process. Al said he felt the cost is too high. Sharon responded that she felt the FinCom had reached a point of impasse with regard to the UIRSD budget.

**MVRHS**

Steve Nixon began by explaining that this is the third year in a row that MVRHS expects a decrease in state revenues and, for the third year, it has been necessary to eliminate positions at the high school. He further explained that 66% of the staff at the high school is on the top step, and that even though all teachers are receiving a 2% increase, the overall budget has less than a 1% increase. He credited that to the very hard work done by those at the high school in making the necessary cuts.

Al commended Steve for the excellent job he has done and for the clarity of his budget.

Sharon asked Steve to explain the new facilities manager position. He explained that in the past the Asst. Principal managed the maintenance of the building. It proved an inadequate system to have someone with an education degree managing the facility maintenance. With an aging, deteriorating building and no one on staff with the expertise to assess and carry out maintenance needs, it became apparent that an individual dedicated to this purpose was necessary to keep the building in good shape. To implement this new position without adding any cost to the budget the Asst. Athletic Director position is being eliminated and absorbed into the facilities manager's duties. Also, work formerly done by the Asst. Principal (who must now be completely dedicated to administrative duties) to manage the building will be folded into this position. Sharon asked if that person would be able to obtain procurements. Steve responded that the person in this position would be responsible for all bids, certifications, licenses, etc. Amy remains the chief procurement officer and would work with the facilities officer on RFP's.

Greg had questions regarding use by the Cape Cod Baseball League of the high school baseball field and possible revenue. Steve said that they plan to maintain the field, build a storage shed, provide equipment to maintain all the athletic fields, including a professional tractor/mower and infield *trimmer*, as well as mentoring students. He added that they have been very cooperative and that this is a win/win for the school and the community. Dr. Weiss noted that regardless of the success of the Cape Cod Baseball League the equipment would remain with the school.

Jonathan once again asked that the format of the UIRSD budget sheets be in line with high school and the town.

Al made a motion, seconded by Greg, to preliminarily approve the MVRHS budget. The motion passed 3-0-1.

Dr. Weiss discussed the warrant article concerning a feasibility study to determine the best way to proceed with establishing a new home for the superintendent's office. The study will cost \$12,000. Each town will pay \$1,000 and an additional amount based on enrollment. West Tisbury's share is \$2,010. Skipper iterated the complete inadequacy of the present building in terms of structural stability, space, privacy, and many other issues. He stated that we are long overdue for an appropriate space for the professional management of our school districts.

### **Other Business**

With Brian's resignation there is a need to elect a new vice-chair. Al nominated Greg, which was seconded by Jonathan. The motion passed 3-0-1. Greg accepted the nomination and position. He also agreed to take over Brian's position as representative on the

Capital Improvements Committee. A letter will be sent to Brian to thank him for this service.

Jen has placed an ad for a replacement to fill out Brian's term.

There was discussion to continue with scheduling and rescheduling budget meetings. The revised schedule is:

January 25	4:30 - 5:00	Highway Department
		Board of Health/LDO
		MV Refuse District
	6:00	MV Commission
February 1	4:30 - 5:00	Council on Aging
		Affordable Housing
February 15	4:30 - 5:00	Town Clerk
		Personnel Board
		Conservation Commission
		Tax Collector
		Library
		Park & Rec.
		CPC

Skipper suggested the BoS and the FinCom meet together on February 8 to discuss the UIRSD.

### **Minutes**

Minutes of the January 11 meeting were unanimously approved.

### **Fire Department**

Chief Estrella's salary has been raised to be commensurate with other island fire chiefs. \$6,800 from the inspection fees and \$1,200 from the auto fire alarm amounts have been added to the Chief's salary.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Greg, to preliminarily approve the Fire Dept. budget. The motion passed 3-0-1.

### **Old Business**

Jonathan informed the committee that the CPC will have an article to see how the voters feel about purchasing the Maley. Money would come, in part, from CPC funds. The CPC met with the BoS and endorsed proceeding with this proposal,

### **Future meetings**

Tuesday, January 25, February 1, 8 and 15, 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 6:13pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Nancy Rogers, Administrative Clerk