

Minutes
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
January 25, 2011
Public Safety Building

Present: Sharon Estrella - chair, Al DeVito, Jonathan Revere. Greg Orcutt arrived at 4:51.

Guests: Bruce Stone, Town Accountant; Richard Knabel and Cynthia Mitchell, BoS; Jen Rand, Executive Secretary; Joyce Bowker, UICOA; Richard Olsen, Superintendent of Highways; John Powers and David Merry, Board of Health; Don Hatch, MVRDD; John Breckenridge, Mark London, Jeff Wooden, Eric Hamerlund, Chris Murphy and Brian Smith, MV Commission.

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

Reserve Funds Transfer

Joyce needed to request an additional \$1,400 to complete the repair to the elevator. Al made a motion, seconded by Jonathan, to approve the transfer. The motion passed 3-0.

Highway Superintendent #421

Level funded. Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Al, to preliminarily approve the Highway Superintendent budget. The motion passed 3-0.

Highway Department #422

Revenue is expected to decrease by about 1% while expenses are projected to increase by 2.7% and wages by 4.1%. Overall, the budget increase will be 3.4%.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Al, to preliminarily approve the Highway Department budget. The motion passed 3-0.

Snow & Ice #423

Level funded.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Al, to preliminarily approve the Snow & Ice budget. The motion passed 3-0.

Board of Health #510

Level funded.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Al, to preliminarily approve the Board of Health budget. The motion passed 4-0.

Health Services #522

Level funded.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Al, to preliminarily approve the Health Services budget. The motion passed 4-0.

Local Drop Off #433

Level funded.

Greg made a motion, seconded by Al, to preliminarily approve the Local Drop Off budget. The motion passed 4-0. Jonathan expressed his appreciation to John and the board for level funding.

MVRDD #439

Nearly level funded.

Bruce asked if there was any consideration being made to drop the highest insurance plan. Don said it was being discussed. He added that most employees are at the top level.

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

All-Island Board of Health

John Powers announced that there would be a meeting on February 1. At this meeting a vote will be taken to decide whether or not apply for a Phase One grant from the public health district incentive grant program. The grant will provide financial support to groups and municipalities that enter into formal long-term agreements, who share resources and coordinated activities in order to improve the scope, quality and effectiveness of local public health services for their combined populations. John felt there was a good chance the vote would favor the project. The state will fund the first part of the grant which will determine what activities are not taking place that could utilize shared resources and what the costs would be related to those activities. The state will fund this for five years on an incrementally declining basis: 100% the first two years, then 90%, then 80%, then 75% and finally the program should be self-supporting. This would include all six towns as well as the Wampanoag tribe. The shared services might include such things as septic, restaurant inspections, nursing, etc.

Other Business

Richard, in referencing a graph Bruce had handed out, noted that West Tisbury's budget over a 5-year period had increased by 8%, whereas the rest of the island had increased by 24%. He commended the FinCom members on the work they have done in that regard. Sharon thanked him.

Sharon asked Nancy to type the FinCom town report letter and send it to Jen along with next week's budget. These need to be in by Thursday.

To-date, Jen has received one application for filling Brian's seat.

Sharon read Bruce's warrant article regarding the over-expenditure for snow & ice removal. Through January 14, 2011 the town has spent \$23,107.10 of its \$40,000 budget. Presently, there is app.\$20,400 in invoices for additional service through January 21, 2011. Permission is requested to exceed the snow & ice appropriation by up to \$30,000 in FY2011. The deficit caused by the over-expenditure will be added to the amount to raise when setting the FY2012 tax rate.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Al, to approve the warrant article. The motion passed 4-0.

MV Commission

John Breckenbridge, MVC FinCom chair, explained the budget has no increase and there is no COLA resulting in a 0% increase in town assessments. Money was saved in a mortgage re-finance which was put into the OPEB fund. He stated that the MVC is trying to keep the budget as tight as possible and still get work done.

Sharon questioned the merit raise and longevity. John explained that merit raises are not given to everyone. They are based on merit. Longevity is treated in the same manner as for town employees. If the island average is below 2.5%, the MVC will adjust its longevity lower to the same level. If higher, the MVC will maintain at 2.5%.

Chris Murphy stated that the MVC is pushing for next year's budget to take what last year's town increase was in an attempt to keep MVC employees on an equitable basis with town employees.

Jonathan wondered what the procedure was for filling the MVC FinCom positions. John explained that the chair appoints town representatives to the FinCom.

Al had questions regarding the discrepancies in the total expense figures between pages 7 and 21 of the budget. Jeff Wooden said he would have to get the answer and get back to the FinCom with the information.

Jonathan made a motion, seconded by Al, to withhold preliminary approval until Al's questions have been answered. The motion passed 4-0.

Jeff said he would confer with the auditor and email the answer. If it is still not clear he will come back before the FinCom at a future meeting.

Minutes

Minutes of the January 18 meeting were unanimously approved.

Future meetings

Tuesday, 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 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Rogers, Administrative Clerk