

Minutes
West Tisbury Finance Committee Meeting
April 26, 2011
Public Safety Building

Present: Sharon Estrella - chair, Greg Orcutt, Jonathan Revere, Katherine Triantafillou and Gary Montrowl.

The meeting was called to order at 4:33 p.m.

The meeting began with a welcome to newly elected member Gary Montrowl.

Katherine made a motion, seconded by Gary, to send a letter of appreciation to Joe Gervais for the good work he did filling out Brian Athearn's term. The motion passed 5-0.

Sharon informed the members that the reserve fund has \$26-28K remaining. She expects to have requests for transfer at the May 10 meeting.

Annual Town Meeting

Greg felt that he and Cynthia got out the message about the UIRSD. Sharon said she thought it was better received this time. She would like to know what the UIRSD school committee sees as their purview. Jonathan mentioned that the UIRSD is the only island school system whose budget is set by the superintendent. Gary stated that he thought the amendment request to reduce the budget was reasonable, adding that many groups have not been receiving raises in the last couple of years such as Social Security recipients and Federal employees. He wondered if there was any way to put a cap on the budget before the work on it begins.

Other points included:

- Develop a long-term strategy.
- Educate the voters about the expenses.
- Attend all school committee meetings starting in the fall.
- Determine what a curriculum costs. For example, how much does it cost to educate a third grade student?
- Who will serve on the BoS task force committee and what will be their mandate?
- Work towards having UIRSD function as a real district, not 2 separate schools.
- Invite UIRSD personnel to be a part of the solution.
- Invite parents to FinCom meetings.

Katherine felt it would be helpful to have Bruce develop a pie chart to show the entire budget. This would let voters know how their taxes are being spent. Policy decisions could then be made based on allocations. Looking at the budget as a whole will help determine if changes can be made and if so, where. She also thought it would be good to have this information sent to the papers so that a larger audience can be drawn in.

Greg noted that with step increases, not including COLA, a 5% per annum increase can be expected.

Nancy presented a letter of resignation from her position as administrative assistant to the FinCom citing an increasingly busy personal and business schedule. The FinCom members were very kind in their response. Greg made a motion, second to reluctantly accept her resignation. The motion passed 5-0.

Minutes

Minutes of the April 5 meeting were approved with correction to date of next meeting. 4-0-1.

Next meeting

May 10 at 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 5:58pm.

Respectfully Submitted, - Nancy Rogers, Administrative Clerk