

Westhampton Finance Committee Meeting
November 10, 2015, 2015

Meeting opened at 7:05 PM

Present: Chair, Ellice Gonzalez, Celeste Whiting, Chevy Seney, Jackie Brodeur, Joe Pipczynski, Aniko Giordano, Mary Cleary, Tom Cleary and Mary Ann Duggan. Also present was Selectman Phil Dowling, Accountant Joe Boudreau and resident Stephen Gagnon.

Selectman Phil Dowling stated that he met with the Fire Chief, Captains, Lieutenants and David Blakesley regarding the proposed new tanker truck. He said a number of questions were raised about the specifications. The sole bidder was a Fir-o-vac. The bid of \$304,720.00 is still under review by the Board of Selectmen (BOS). The Homeland Security Grant would fund \$226,067.00 with the remainder to be funded by the town. He felt that the amount that is needed to be approved to borrow on Town Meeting floor at the Special Town Meeting on Monday November 16, 2015 would be increased by around \$6,000.00 to fund upgrades.

Joe Boudreau felt that the specifications for the tanker could not be changed after the bids were opened. He suggested that the bids be rejected and then rebid the tanker and have Town Meeting approve to borrow an "up to" amount. He also stated that there is a need for Town Meeting because Article 1 needed to be passed over and Article 2 needed to be rescinded to balance the budget.

The Committee then discussed what guidelines should be included in the budget request cover letter being sent in early December and also agreed that a letter recommending level funded salaries be sent to the Select Board.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 19.

Meeting adjourned 8:10pm

Respectfully submitted

Joseph I Pipczynski
Acting Secretary