

Approved 10/18/06
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, October 4, 2006, 4:30 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Glenn Hearn, Skipper Manter, Jen Rand

Guests: Lou Russo, Mary O'Keeffe, Tom Coughlin, Zekee Rashid, Laura Marchaud, Ann Wallace, Beth Toomey, Fred LaPiana, Tristan Isreal, David Maxson, Andrew Nanaa, Frank Fenner, Richard Olsen, Jack Scanlon, E. Mendenhall, C. Riggs, R. Knabel, B. Potts, J. Revere, I. Fein

Minutes: *postponed.*

Domestic Violence Month: Laura Marchaud, representing the District Attorney's office asked the Board to proclaim October as Domestic Violence Prevention Month. Ann Wallace took the opportunity to praise Chief Toomey and her department for the work they do to prevent domestic violence.

S. Manter motioned to adopt the proclamation naming October as Domestic Violence Prevention Month. G. Hearn seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

ComCast: Lou Russo introduced the ComCast management team and explained the structure. She said ComCast had been in business for 40 years and customer service was important to them. Tom Coughlin (Regional VP) said the island system needed to be made more reliable, service centers will be added, and the rebranding should be done in November. Skipper asked for assurance that ComCast would fulfill all contract requirements, Lou said yes they would. Skipper asked if there would be rate changes, Tom said they had none planned at this time. Fred LaPiana asked for assurances that EWTN remain on basic cable, as many of the viewers of that channel were on a fixed income. Tom said they did not plan to eliminate it, but didn't know that it would remain as a basic service channel. Skipper asked about the local access channels, Lou said they would be provided but she wasn't sure if the numbers would be the same. Tristan Isreal wanted it noted that in the past communication with Adelpia was terrible, he was hoping ComCast would be better. Joan Ames asked about ComCast providing service further down roads, Zekee said they would look at each case individually.

DAS Service: David Maxson of Broadcast Signal Labs and Andrew Nanaa explained to the Board the technology behind the Distributed Antenna Systems. Essentially, the system is placed on the top of utility poles every ¼ mile or so, depending on topography. The antenna are either 4'-5' wires, or they can be contained in something that looks like an extension of the pole. David said that if the town is spread out the signal may not reach areas far off the road. He also said that cell carriers must be given incentives to switch to the new technology. If towns write their bylaws to prohibit towers, and encourage the DAS system it might be successful. The upfront cost for the DAS system is higher, but over time it will even out as the companies often need to add towers. There would also be potentials economies of scale if the 3 up-island towns joined together to build the service. The towns would need to think creatively for methods of funding, including grants especially those related to emergency services. Skipper asked Frank Fenner about the interest in Chilmark for this service. Frank said the town was very interested in pursuing it.

Library Paving: Glenn asked Rich Olsen to develop an estimate for paving the library parking lot, using pervious pavers for the 100' turn area and bluestone hardener for the rest.

Warrant Articles: Skipper asked that articles be set aside for cemetery maintenance, professional development and the Mill Pond, if the ConComm thought they might need it.

Access to Counsel: *S. Manter motioned to allow the WTPD access to Counsel for a firearms permit denial hearing. G. Hearn seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was G. Hearn in favor, S. Manter abstained.*

Rogers Path: *S. Manter motioned to sign the interim agreement with the owners of Rogers Path. G. Hearn seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*