

**Approved 1/2/08**  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**SELECTMENS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, December 12, 2007, 4:30 p.m.**

**Present:** Selectmen Glenn R. Hearn, Skipper Manter, Dianne Powers, Jen Rand

**Guests:** Bruce Stone, Michael Colaneri, Cindy Mitchell, Bob Mone, Patty Moore, Tristan Isreal, Les Leland, Kristina West, Paul Strauss, Kathy Logue, E. Mendenhall, B & B Day, J. Ames, J. Shea, C. Riggs, R. Knabel, B. Potts

**Minutes:** *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of November 28, 2007. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Tax Rate Hearing:** Kristina West explained the tax rate options available to the Board of Selectmen. They range from a single rate for the whole town to a variety of offsets shifting the burden to non-residents and/or commercial properties. She said the total excess tax levy was \$463,643.19. Michael Colaneri said the Board of Assessors had voted to recommend a single tax rate.

*S. Manter motioned to adopt a single tax rate. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**County Commissioners:** Paul Strauss said the County was visiting island towns to find out what services they could provide that are not currently available. Les Leland ran through some options that had been proposed in a letter sent to the towns including cooperative purchasing and an island-wide dog pound among others. The County is also considering increasing revenue by instituting a rooms tax or doing something with their New York Avenue property. Glenn said he thought the ideas presented were worth discussing. Dianne said she agreed, but was worried about how any new initiative would be funded. Tristan said the County was going to have to make some hard decisions about funding programs this year.

**Free Cash:** Bruce Stone explained the sources of free cash in town. He said usually the town spends about 96% of its budget. Add to that the E&D returned by the school of about \$200K, and revenues that cannot be guaranteed, for example tax title. This year, because tax bills went out late the prior year, some taxes weren't paid until after July 1<sup>st</sup>, which meant the revenue was counted in this year's free cash. He said it was important to consider the free cash and the stabilization fund together, and the target should be about 10% of the total. We are pretty close to that.

**Executive Session:** *S. Manter motioned to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Cote affordable housing litigation and further to not return to regular session. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*