

Approved 3/26/08
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, March 12, 2008, 4:30 p.m.**

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

Guests: Kathy Logue, Deb Magnuson, Andrea Hartman, Phil Spaulding, Mary Jane Pease, Maurice Pease, John Alley, Art Nelson, Nick Bayer, E. Mendenhall, R. Knabel, C. Riggs, J. Ames

Assessing Discussion: Glenn Hearn said he had done quite a bit of research into the questions raised by the public about the revaluation. He said that he had spoken to the Department of Revenue regarding the revaluation in West Tisbury and they said the Board of Assessors have followed the process correctly. He asked if it was possible to revalue only 3 of the neighborhoods, the DOR said no, the town would have to conduct a revaluation of the entire town. Regarding the application that was sent to the wrong office, and consequently not received by the deadline in the Assessors office he said the rules are quite strict and it would appear the Assessors could not accept it. He summarized his findings by saying that the Board of Assessors would be holding meetings to discuss each abatement, those requesting an abatement were allowed to schedule a meeting with the Board, but weren't required and finally, that the process could be complicated, and it might be best for people to bring a representative to help them through the process.

Diane said she was continuing to look into the contracts and will be asking for a legal opinion on same. Skipper said first he wanted to state again that he had property taxes affected by this latest revaluation. He then said he wanted first to thank Glen for his work on this. Glenn had gone "over the heads" of the Assessors and gotten answers straight from the State, which he thought was helpful. He also said he wanted to ask the Assessors to explain the impact of the Drexler sale on the revaluation. He said it was clear the sale of this property was the point of contention for many people and it would be helpful for the Board of Selectmen to understand the sale's impact. He said he did not wish to debate in any fashion whether they should or should not have used that property.

S. Manter motioned to send a letter to the Board of Assessors asking for an explanation of the impact of the Drexler sale on the revaluation. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Warrant: *D. Powers motioned to sign the warrant. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

CIPC: Kathy said the Capital Improvements Committee's annual report must, according to the bylaw, be approved by the Board of Selectmen. Skipper asked why the report included a dog pound when the town had an arrangement with Tisbury. Diane said it was not for now, but at some point down the road it might make sense to have an up-island pound. Jen added that the other up-island towns have expressed interest in exploring this idea. Skipper than asked about the recommendation for a planning committee to start looking into the possibility of a new police building. Skipper concern was that without funds the committee could do very little. Kathy said the first year would be a "think tank" she noted the only funds the Space Needs Committee required were for mailing and advertising public forums.

Access to Counsel: Jen explained that the Town Clerk had a time sensitive issue to raise with Counsel so she had granted access and would like the Board to approve the request retroactively.

S. Manter motioned to authorize the Town Clerk to call counsel regarding an election question. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Shellfish Season reopening: S. Manter motioned to approve the proposed shellfish regulations which will open the season on March 11, 2008 and close April 30, 2008. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

S. Manter motioned to approve for this year only a change to the commercial shellfish license expiration date from April 1st to April 30th at 4:30 p.m. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Lights Out MV: Skipper said he wanted the Board to send a notice to all town departments asking them to participate in the Lights Out program on 3/29 between 8-9:00 p.m. Jen will do so.
Street Lights: Skipper said he had driven around looking at the street light location in comparison to the list NStar has. The list matches what is in place. He said some are probably not necessary as they are in a random location or are so overgrown they provide no light to the street anyways.

Planning Board Bylaw: Skipper said the Planning Board has a requirement that the Fire Chief be consulted on any subdivision of three lots or more, it has come up recently that the bylaw doesn't seem to address multiple units on one lot. Jen will ask Simone about this.

Finance Committee: Skipper said he feels that the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee are not as connected as they should be. He suggested that in May, after budget season is over he would like to meet with the FinComm to come up with a meeting plan where both boards could work together. He thought that perhaps during the budget season the Board could alternate with the FinComm on who went to what meeting, both would meet with the departments, so there would not be double meetings for anyone. Glenn said some towns appoint one person from the Board of Selectmen, one from Fincomm and one from the school to talk about the budget very early in the process.

Snow Removal: Bruce asked the Board to authorize him to overspend the snow removal budget, state law allows this, but requires support of the Board of Selectmen. The Board had no problem with this; Bruce will also ask the Finance Committee for the same support.

Other: Joan Ames read a letter expressing her concern about the Police presence at the last Assessor's meeting, she wanted the Board of Selectmen to ask for Michael Colaneri's resignation and to ask Chief Toomey to explain why the police were there and armed. Glenn said he didn't agree with everything in Joan's letter, he had spoken with Michael and he had the right to feel the way he did about the tenor of the meeting. Glenn said he said he had heard the Assessor's meetings had been very contentious and Michael didn't want things to get out of hand. Dianne said she wanted to take Joan's letter under advisement.

Dianne asked if we could get something in writing from DOR regarding the Pease's misdirected application.

John Alley said the street light in front of his house was out.