

Approved 4/2/08
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, March 19, 2008, 4:30 p.m.

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

Guests: Mal Jones, Deb Magnuson, Suzanna Sturgis, Nick Bayer, Eba Hierta, Al DeVito, James Seponara,
E. Mendenhall, R. Knabel, C. Riggs, J. Ames, B. Potts, J. Shea

Minutes: *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 2/27/08 & 3/5/08. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Green Shuttle Livery Service: Jen explained that the company had been licensed by the town of Tisbury to operate a livery service. She said that generally, the state regulates liveries and the towns regulate taxis. The difference is that liveries are reservation only, while taxis can pick up fares at any time. She suggested the Board take the visit under advisement until she can determine if there is anything the town needs to do. Mr. Kollett spoke for the business and said it operates hybrid vehicles and takes people to the major airports and hospitals for a flat rate.

THRC: Bea Phear provided the Board with the cost estimates completed by the consultants. She said that the total number was a little lower than they anticipated, so they would be able to lower the amount asked for on town meeting floor by \$80K. Skipper asked if they felt comfortable lowering the number, because if the bids came in higher that could be a problem. Bea felt they had built in a contingency and didn't want to ask for more money than they needed.

Evacuation Plan: James Seponara said he was a safety officer on the Steamship, but that designation came from the Coast Guard not the SSA. He said it was a concern to him that the SSA tied up only one vessel on the island, and the rest in Woods Hole. He felt if there was a disaster like a nuclear plant meltdown or if another war broke out there would be no way to get people off the island. He said with no cars the ferries could take quite a few people. He asked the Board to put pressure on the SSA, and communicate with the Coast Guard and Congressman Delahunt to get a second vessel tied to the island at night. The Board asked that Marc Hanover be invited to a meeting.

Finance Forum: Al said the forum was designed to listen to the voters, and the discussion was to be focused on the expense side of the budget, not revenue. The planned press release was read.

S. Manter motioned to join the Finance Committee in sending out the press release. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Assessment Formula: Dianne said the committee she and Al had been working with to discuss potential changes to the school assessment formula had been disbanded without coming to a consensus. Al said he felt the regional assessment should be decided by 2/3 of the member towns, not 100%. That way one town couldn't drive the process. Skipper said it was clear the Legislature did not want to make changes to this right now.

Pease Abatement Application: Glenn said the DOR had said the application didn't meet statutory requirements so the Board couldn't accept it. He cited the state statute C.59 S.59. Skipper said maybe the Board of Assessors could make it more clear for filers by printing the mailing address on every page of the application and perhaps by providing an envelope pre-printed with the Board's address on it to make it as easy for the people as possible.

Paths: Ebba Hierta said she had more concerns about the proposed path on Old County Road. She said she spoke to Chief Toomey who indicated she never told the group to move the path to the other side of the road. Ebba was concerned about how close the path was too close to the road, and that people would be crossing a number of side streets and if there were crosswalks it would give the pedestrians a false sense of security and they would be killed. She said she wanted to volunteer to serve on the Paths Committee.

Other: Skipper apologized if he offended anyone at the previous weeks meeting.