

Approved 12/17/08
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, December 03, 2008, 4:30 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Skipper Manter, Dianne Powers, Richard Knabel, Jen Rand

Guests: M. Colaneri, Kristina West, Cindy Mitchell, Dan Waters, Beth Kramer, Joanne Scott, Kathy Logue, Ernie Mendenhall, C. Riggs, J. Hickey, B. Potts, B& B Day, J. Shea

Tax Hearing: Skipper opened the public hearing to set the tax rate for this fiscal year. Kristina West, Principal Assessor, outlined the options available to the town which are a single rate or a variety of split rates. One option allows some of the tax burden to be shifted to the commercial properties, while another allows some of the tax burden to be shifted from residents to non-residents, second homes or undeveloped land. The Board of Assessors feel this option, the residential exemption, was worthy of further exploration but for this year they had voted to recommend a single tax rate in town. The rate for FY '09 would go up to \$4.28 due to an increase in the levy and a decrease in overall value in town. She noted that the excess capacity this year was \$673,517.98. The Board discussed scheduling a meeting to hear from taxpayers about the residential exemption. The meeting would be held in the summer to hear from those most affected.

R. Knabel motioned to adopt the Assessor's recommendation of a single tax rate for fiscal year 2009. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Minutes: *R. Knabel motioned to approve the minutes of 11/12/08 with a correction. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Budgets: Jen went through the highway and town hall budgets with the Board. Regarding the Highway Superintendent's budget, Skipper said he would like to increase the stipend by \$500. He said Richie was being asked to do more and more and he was always available. Richard said he thought that we were trying to have no increases. Dianne suggested leaving it for now, but looking at it again when the whole financial picture was complete.

R. Knabel motioned to approve the highway department budgets. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Jen showed the Board the increase in the cemetery budget and explained that she factored in about 1,000 per mowing and added three mowings. The board added one extra mowing and did not make any changes to the Superintendent's personnel cost. It was noted that at the annual there will need to be an article asking for funds to mow four more times before July 1st.

R. Knabel motioned to approve the cemetery budget. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Jen noted that she had changed the legal budget previously approved to reflect the Planning Board's additional of their own legal line. The budget was dropped \$2,000.

R. Knabel motioned to approve the legal budget. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

R. Knabel motioned to approve the town report budget. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Jen explained that the budget for town hall was truly an educated guess. Without knowing exactly when the new offices would be done and with no background for energy costs she had done her best using other examples and an assumption that the new offices would be open in October. Skipper said the board should note these factors when meeting with the Finance Committee. The Board will discuss next week the issue of leasing the Music Street Building once the town hall is complete.

D. Powers motioned to approve the town hall budget. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

R. Knabel motioned to approve the public official's liability insurance budget. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Chicama Vineyards: Jen explained that there had been some changes to the terms of the sale of Chicama Vineyard, which seemed inconsequential, but the Board would need to revote their waiver of the Right of first refusal.

R. Knabel motioned to waive the right of first refusal on the Chicama Vineyards property. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Public Restrooms: Skipper said he would like to have a warrant article asking for a small amount of money to plan for public bathrooms, perhaps on the site of the temporary trailers. The infrastructure is in place, and they could be constructed to fit aesthetically into the neighborhood. Richard said he agreed we needed dedicated restrooms. Kathy asked if the THRC should look into isolating the bathrooms in the new town hall for this purpose. The Board said yes, but will ask for \$3,000 at the ATM in the event that will not work.

MVLB Trail Agreements: *R. Knabel motioned to renew trail agreements with the Land Bank for Rogers Path, Old Holmes Hole Rd. and Old Courthouse Rd. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

DAS: Richard said the DAS committee had a contract to hire a consultant to work on the DAS project. The town still had money for this purpose.

D. Powers motioned to enter into a contract with Martin AG. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

North Rd Repairs: Jen asked if the repairs on North Road could go forward without the STRAP grant. It would appear the town will not get money from the state and the road still needs work. The Board agreed provided there was enough money available when the project was rebid.