

Approved 4/1/09
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, March 18, 2009, 4:30 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Skipper Manter, Dianne Powers, Richard Knabel, Jen Rand
Guests: Gail Tipton, Gary Davidson, E. Mendenhall, J. Hickey, J. Shea, B. Potts

Minutes: *D. Powers motioned to approve the minutes of 3/4/09. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Lights out Martha's Vineyard: Gail Tipton told the Board that the event was scheduled for 3/28/09 from 8:30 – 9:30 pm. Jen will send a memo to town departments asking them to participate in any way they can.

Warrant Review: The Board discussed the COLA article. Skipper said he thought the Personnel Board might amend the number from 3.6 to 3.4%, the Finance Committee had said they would recommend 2%. Richard said he had no problem supporting the 2%, Dianne agreed.

R. Knabel motioned to make a motion at town meeting to lower the COLA to 2%. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was R. Knabel & D. Powers in favor, S. Manter abstained.

Brick Sidewalk: Skipper said he thought when Glenn explained the plan it was a fence, then a sidewalk, then graded earth. The last he heard it was not graded earth, but pavement similar to in front of the church. Richard said it should be made no parking so the graded area doesn't return to the muddy pit that it has been. Dianne said it would be good to specify who had final control over the design and who controls the work and the money. She suggested that while Glenn Hearn applied for the funding the THRC should be in charge of the project should it get funded. Jen will ask Glenn to come to the next meeting.

R. Knabel motioned to sign the warrant. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Legal Policy: Richard said he didn't think the policy should apply to the BOS. He said that the Selectmen were not responsible or accountable to each other, they are all equals. He said by contacting counsel and conducting due diligence on a problem it can forestall larger problems. He contacted the state and they have no policy on this matter. On the island some towns have a policy that applies loosely or not at all to the Selectmen. Dianne said she had a problem with the philosophy that Richard considered the Board as three individuals not a Board that should be working together. Richard said the Board was not elected as a slate, individuals are elected and do not have to agree. Skipper said he didn't feel the members of the Board had any right to act independent of the Board on behalf of the town. He had no problem with letting the other members know if a question exists. He said he thought the policy should apply to the BOS and he did not believe in "Do as I say – not as I do" leadership. He said the policy needed to be clarified to include the BOS. Richard said he would be willing to discuss any process short of a formal vote to say no. He did not feel that a vote of the majority should outweigh the minority. Skipper noted that that was how democracy worked.

D. Powers motioned to add the phrase "including the Board of Selectmen" to the first line of the legal policy". S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote was D. Powers & S. Manter in favor, R. Knabel against.

New Town Hall: Skipper said he had read the THRC minutes and had some concerns about the proposed landscaping and irrigation. He also wanted to discuss a space for a receptionist/administrative assistance and the Executive Secretary's office. Jen will ask that the BOS be on the agenda.

Access to Counsel: *D. Powers motioned to authorize the Board of Health to speak to counsel. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Poet Laureate Appointment: *R. Knabel motioned to appoint Fan Ogilvie to the position of Poet Laureate. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Personnel Board Appointment Process: Richard said he was concerned that the appointment process creates an autonomous self-perpetuating board. He felt the BOS should receive the letters of interest, review them and make the appointment. Dianne said that the Board does get the information. Skipper suggested going to the meeting when the candidates meet the Personnel Board, listen to the deliberations and then they would understand how the decision was reached. Richard said he felt the Personnel Board functions were too important for the BOS not to be part of the deliberations. Dianne said she thought it was a good idea for the Personnel Board (or any appointed Board) to vet the applicants to determine who would best fill the vacancy. Richard said he would not rubberstamp any Boards recommendations. Skipper said no one was asking him to. The Board will try the process of going to the Personnel Board's meeting and listening to the applicants and the deliberations and see how that works.

Oyster Season: *R. Knabel motioned to open the Oyster Season from 3/23/09 – 4/29/09 with all the regular regulations. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Event Permit – “Cake Walk”: *R. Knabel motioned to authorize the “cake walk” on April 4 at the Grange. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*