

Approved 2/25/09
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, January 21, 2009, 4:30 p.m.

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

Guests: Glenn Hearn, Ann Maley, E. Mendenhall, J. Ames, B. Potts, J. Shea, J. Hickey

Minutes: *R. Knabel motioned to approve the minutes of 12/30/08 with an amendment. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Skipper noted with sadness the deaths of Stan Richards and Shelton Bank.

Cultural Council: Ann Maley asked that the Board consider putting the Cultural Council as a town budget line instead of a warrant article. She said in past years the amount requested had been \$1,500. Skipper said that last year he had suggested doing that and thought it was a good idea.

R. Knabel motioned to add the Cultural Council funding of \$1,500 as a line item in the budget. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Lights: Skipper asked that a place holder needs to be held on the warrant to look at adding more lights to the parking lot of the Howes House and Library. The total number of lights needed would probably be 7, Jen will work with Ernie and Tom Colligan.

Building Inspector's Budget: Skipper asked about the Administrative Clerk position, he said he assumed that the work load currently has dropped. Ernie said it had by 7-8%. Dianne said she would prefer not to fill that position until the move is completed back into town hall and we could see how the building functions. Richard said he was under the impression there was not enough work to occupy a clerk. He added he thought the Board of Health budget should be revisited because they have funding in their budget for the same position. Dianne suggested that the funding for that position be moved to the Town Hall budget, and the Board of Health be asked to do the same and then that position can be shared within town hall. Over time it would likely be expanded to full time. Ernie said that he had cut funding for training, and if he retired there would be no continuity in his office. Skipper said that would be an appropriate use of a reserve fund transfer.

Paper Ballot: The Finance Committee asked that the BOS consider co-sponsoring the warrant article regarding paper ballots at town meeting. Skipper said he thought only 20 voters triggering a paper ballot vote was too low. Dianne said she was not sure she was in favor of asking the voters again as they had already voted on this issue. Richard said he was strongly in favor of the article and would like to see the number of voters dropped. The Board will not take any action until they invite the Finance Committee to speak to them.

Highway Superintendent Stipend: Skipper said that the Finance Committee had voted to recommend an increase of \$1,500 to the stipend making it \$7,000. Richard said he thought this was not the year to do this. Skipper said that the Finance Committee is the financial "watchdog" of the town and if they thought it was a good idea he would support it.

D. Powers motioned to increase the stipend of the Highway Superintendent to \$7,000 in next year's budget. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was SM & DP in favor, RK opposed.

COLA: The Board discussed sending a letter to Dr. Weiss asking him to reopen contracts in the school departments to eliminate a cost of living increase for employees next year as the town may be asking its employees to do the same.

OPEB: The County asked that the Board for support for OPEB legislation that would allow the town's to create one trust fund to fund the retirement liability. It does not require the towns to join.

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

DAS: The Board discussed authorizing BCK to represent the three towns in contract review for DAS. Dianne said she was concerned about limiting access to council if we are paying for this from our legal line. In her experience the bill can rise quickly if access is not limited to the chair of the committee.

R. Knable motioned to authorize BCK to represent West Tisbury regarding DAS and to send a letter asking that access to council be limited. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

MV Savings Bank House Donation: Glenn said MV Savings Bank was willing to donate a house and foundation at no cost to the town and the town needed to take possession by March. Skipper asked if that was possible. Glenn said he thought so; they needed to put in a well.

R. Knabel motioned to accept the gift of the house provided there was no cost to the town for moving or putting in the foundation. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Brick Sidewalk: Glenn said he had met with the Paths Committee to help them with the sidewalk extension from the church to Alley's. He said there will need to be funds to survey to determine ownership.

Job Evaluations: Skipper clarified that the Board will participate in the job evaluations for Jen and Bruce and the chair will compile those evaluations and use them to help create the evaluation that is officially submitted to the Personnel Board. The other two evaluations will be attached.

Cable Negotiations: Jack Scanlan said the process for cable negotiations would begin in June 2010. The first step is "ascertainment" to determine what the town wants and needs, once complete a public hearing is held in January of 2011. About two months after that negotiations begin in earnest. Skipper said we might need a warrant article for legal fees.

Executive Session: *R. Knabel motioned to go into executive session to discuss land acquisition and not to return to regular session. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*