

Approved 2/18/09
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, February 4, 2009, 4:15 p.m.

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

Guests: Angie Grant, John Alley, Kathy Logue, Bruce Stone, Al Devito, Ann Nelson, Greg Orcott, E. Mendenhall, J. Ames, B. Potts, J. Shea, J. Hickey

Executive Session: *R. Knabel motioned to go into executive session to discuss land acquisition and then to return to regular session. D. Powers seconded the motion. The roll call vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Minutes: *R. Knabel motioned to approve the minutes of 1/7/09. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

VTA: John Alley said the VTA was working to develop a summer route plan. Routes 2&3 would be changed to bring busses into town center. Angie said that once the routes changed in the fall there were complaints from people who wanted to get into town to go to the Library and Howes House. Speaking about Route 3, which would send busses down Music Street, Dianne said she understood there might be a need, but if the busses were to be temporarily re-routed they needed to add time so the drivers didn't go as fast down the road. Angie said that had been done, but the noise would also be lessened by the change in an engine part that has been replaced as a result of a recall. Richard said he was concerned about the site lines at the end of Music Street when the busses are stopped. John said he had spoken to the Chief and she had made some safety suggestions including having passengers discharged closer to the Music Street Annex. Jen said the busses should not stop right there out of concern for the neighbors. Skipper asked when the summer schedule would start. Angie said May 2, but they may be able to use the Grange property for a couple weeks until they get busy with their summer schedule. Kathy Logue suggested painting an area indicating where the busses would be stopping to make sure no cars blocked that area. Speaking about Route 2, which would route busses through the Library parking lot the Board expressed concerns about that area. John said they tried to limit the impact to keep it to 5 busses during the daytime. Richard noted that because of the renovation the Howes House is getting much more use. Dianne said she would like to speak to the Directors of both buildings and get their input.

Paper Ballot: Skipper told the Finance Committee that the Board of Selectmen were divided over the warrant article. Richard was in support, and would like to see the number drop to ten people can ask for the paper ballot, Dianne was not in support of rehashing the article when it failed last year and Skipper was in favor of perhaps changing it to match the amendment made by Tad Crawford last year which allowed 50% of the quorum to call for the paper ballot. Al said that last year the vote was very close and he thinks that if it hadn't been the second night people might have voted for it. He thinks that town meeting needs to give the minority a voice. He thinks the town's finances would be better under control if this passed. Richard said this wouldn't mean a paper ballot would be used on every article. Dianne said it could. Barbara Day said she thought it was democratic to vote in private. Skipper said he felt in a democracy the majority ruled and this ballot allowed the minority to rule. Bruce Stone said the MGL set up the voting process to allow town meeting to be an open discourse and vote about a matter and he said as a comparison how would people feel if the BOS discussed a matter in public then had a secret ballot to vote on items. Richard said the BOS and Finance Committee should be on the same page about the town's finances.

Changing Town Clerk to be Appointed: Jen said the Financial Management Team had discussed the possibility of changing the Town Clerk from elected to appointed which would allow the job to be

accessible to a wider range of talent and also mean there would be some assurance that the person in the job would not run the risk of losing an election after taking the time to learn the job. Kathy said as an elected official she could come up with reasons not to change the job, but she would also promote making the change to the treasurer and tax collector once they retire. Skipper said he liked the process of the elections, but understood the reasons behind making a change. Bruce pointed out that the DOR review in 2003 had recommended the change. Richard thought it was a good idea. Dianne said it was fine, and the people who had taken out papers for Clerk this year would have time to change their mind should they not want an appointed position. The Board thought they would be willing to try this year with the Town Clerk and see how it goes.

Agenda: The Board discussed again closing the BOS meeting at noon on Mondays and posting it on the website. They will try it for a month.

“S” Petitions: *D. Powers motioned to sign the S Petitions for the lots on Stoney Hill Road. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

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