

Approved 5/9/18
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, April 25, 2018 4:30 p.m. – 5:50 pm

Present: Selectmen Skipper Manter, Cindy Mitchell, Kent Healy, Jen Rand

Also Present: John Christensen, Matt Mincone, Matt Gebo, Garrison Vieira, Jeremie Rogers, Sean Murphy, John Cain, Bernice Kirby, Harlan Landry, Holly Pretsky, Richard Saltzberg

Public Hearing – Lambert’s Cove Inn Beer & Wine License Transfer: Skipper opened the public hearing after reading the notice. Sean Murphy introduced his client John Cain as the new owner of the Inn. John said he was excited to run the Inn as a family business. He said he has strong ties to the Island, he was married here. He said he doesn’t plan to change the name. The public hearing was closed.

C. Mitchell motioned to approve the license transfer. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Minutes: *C. Mitchell motioned to approve the minutes of 3/28, 3/29 & 4/4/18. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Chair & Vice Chair Election: *S. Manter motioned to appoint C. Mitchell Chair and K. Healy Vice-chair. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

WTPD Promotion: Matt Mincone said that there were three eligible officers in the Department qualified for a promotion to Sergeant. Only Matt Gebo had applied, and he felt that Matt was very qualified and the right fit for the promotion.

K. Healy motioned to promote Matt Gebo to the position of Sergeant. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was CM&KH in favor, SM abstained.

Change to Emergency Management Position: John Christensen suggested the department be altered so that there is a Director, a Deputy Director, and then there is a position for a volunteer, unpaid Assistant that could be called into service as needed. He said the Deputy would have all the qualifications needed to fill in for the Director when needed.

S. Manter motioned to approve the changes as requested. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

16 Old Courthouse Rd: Jen asked the Board for guidance regarding the building at Old Courthouse Rd. She said that the town meeting had raised some comments from the Affordable Housing Committee (AHC) about possibly renovating the building for re-use. She also asked if the town should remediate the asbestos and lead or incorporate the remediation into the bid to move the building. The Board said she should check with the AHC to see if they want to renovate, and if so, do not bid to move the building. They also said the bid should include hazardous material remediation.

Treasurer/Collector & Assistant Advertising: The Board asked Jen to advertise for the positions with a clear note that the position was contingent on a positive vote at the election on June 14th.

Herbicide Home Rule Petition: Jen asked the Board how they wished to proceed regarding the positive vote at town meeting regarding the herbicide home rule petition. Cindy asked Jen to find out who else had passed the petition so that letters could perhaps be submitted in concert. Kent noted that enforcement of this would be expensive to the town. Jen will have a letter draft for next week.

Town Administrator – Change in Term Length: *S. Manter motioned to change the Town Administrator position to a three year appointment. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Event Permit: *S. Manter motioned to approve a 1 Day Beer & Wine license and permit for Blooming Bids for Kids on 6/22 from 5-7 at the Field Gallery K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

S. Manter motioned to approve a Charity Wine license and permit for Friends of Family Planning Art Show on 5/24 from 6-8 at the Ag. Hall. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Dangerous House – Board of Surveyors: Jen explained that the law dictated that the Building Inspector appoints a “disinterested party” to serve on the review party. After some thought Tim Carroll was thought to be a good choice. Tim had asked for a formal request to his Board before he could agree to participate. Jen said she would offer herself for a similar service to Chilmark should the need arise. Skipper said he didn’t think it should be someone from Chilmark, he said there surely was someone in town that could do it. The other two members did not share his concern.

S. Manter motioned to motioned to send a letter to the Chilmark Board of Selectmen asking permission for Tim Carroll to serve on the Board of Surveyors. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was CM & KH in favor, SM opposed.

Lease Vehicle: Jen said one of the vehicles had some paint damage due to a minor accident. She said if the town was going to buy the vehicle she would not spend money to repair it, but if it was to be turned back in she had to fix it due to terms of the lease. Cindy said it was too soon to know what would happen so it should be fixed. Jen noted that the decision to purchase would need to be made in the next budget year.

Tort Lawsuit: Skipper said that there were only 75 towns out of 351 that had voted to join this suit. He was reluctant to join because it was basically a pay day for the attorneys. He asked who would be watching them to assure they were working for the towns on this case. He noted there would be a cost to the town to produce the information they needed. He said if the Attorney General files a case and wins there would be no cost to the town. He said he knew opioid abuse was an issue, but he noted alcohol abuse was also a problem. Kent said he agreed with a lot of what Skipper said; noting he didn’t think it was the most effective way to get at the problem. Cindy said she respectfully and vehemently disagreed. She said that when lawyers went after big tobacco it brought about major changes in the industry and its clear that fewer people smoke now as a result. She said that opioid abuse may be secondary to alcohol abuse on the Island, but in the country as a whole it’s a plague. She said there was no risk to the town to join, she felt that the industry was an appropriate target and she would be ashamed not to be part of this effort. Kent said he was persuaded.

S. Manter motioned to join the opioid tort lawsuit. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Taxi Meters: Jen said that Edgartown had their first hearing about the meter proposal presented by MV Taxi. It was taken under advisement; the other taxi companies in town were not in favor of the proposal. Jen was asked to amend the regulations to reflect the changes proposed and bring back to the Board for review.

Taxi Violation Hearing Request to Postpone: Benoit Baldwin, owner of Alpha Taxi, sent a letter asking the Board to postpone the violation hearing from May 2nd to October because he cannot attend the hearing. Jen said she had spoken to Counsel and the Jail where Mr. Baldwin is housed and offered the Board the option to hold the hearing with Mr. Baldwin attending by phone. The Board said yes to this plan.