

**Approved 10/24/18**  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**SELECTMENS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, October 3, 2018 4:30 p.m. – 5:50 pm**

**Present:** Selectmen Cynthia Mitchell, Kent Healy, Skipper Manter, Jen Rand

**Also Present:** Angie Grant, Diane Powers, Phyllis Meras, Janice Haynes, Sue Hruby, Nicola Blake, Ron D'Agostino, Anna Alley, Richard Knabel, Jeremiah Brown, Richie Olsen, Michael Mszanski, Holly Pretsky, Rich Saltzberg

**Minutes:** *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 9/19/18. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Vineyard Transit (VTA) Electric Bus Infrastructure:** Angie Grant from the VTA said they now have 6 electric busses. They need to develop in-route chargers for them, and West Tisbury Town Hall is one of the chosen locations, Church Street in Edgartown is the other. The funding has been secured for both locations, which will help the project move forward. By June of 2019 they will have 20 electric busses. The chargers are 200 KWs, they have in-ground plates that the busses drive over for wireless charging. The chargers need two cabinets that are 6'x6'x2' within 75' of the charging pads. The appearance can be altered with wrap-arounds if desired. They can go in the basement if there is room or around the side of the building. Kent asked how long the busses charge while at Town Hall. Angie said "as long as possible" but added the schedule would be altered to add 3-4 minutes to maximize charging to 5-7 minutes. Cindy asked the project timeline. Angie said the biggest hurdle was Eversource, she wanted to begin the planning now in the hopes it would happen in the next 6 months. Kent asked if the power was coming directly off the pole. Angie said yes, it was 3-phase power. She added that she would also like to plan for energy storage on the town hall property, which would be a separate project. The batteries would be housed in a separate structure, size etc. to be determined. The benefit to the town would be back-up power for the generator in the event that there was a long term power outage. Skipper asked if the in-ground chargers were safe. Angie said yes, you can walk on them; they only come to life when the bus is parked on top and send a signal to activate them. Regarding the cabinets for the chargers Skipper asked if they could be shorter and wider to limit the view of them from the road. Angie will look into that. Once the details are finalized Jen and Angie will go to the Historic District to apply for permission.

**Music Street Tree:** Cindy noted that the discussion was not a public hearing. Jeremiah Brown, Tree Warden, had sent a letter indicating his concerns about the tree and its potential for damage in its deteriorating state. He said he thought it would die in 3-5 years, and the large limb over the street showed a lot of damage from truck strikes. Richie Olsen, Highway Superintendent, said he had concerns about safety with the low hanging limb. Kent asked if the tree was in the town layout, Jeremiah said yes. Kent said he felt the Board would be remiss if it did not address the problem. Phyllis Meras said it was one of the most beautiful trees on the road, she thought at the very most the tree should remain and the limb could be cut if its dead. She thought the tree should not be cut just because trucks drive too fast down the road and hit it. Richard Knabel said until its clearly dead it should be left alone. Anna Alley asked if a reflector could be put on the limb. Skipper said he was leaning towards removing the limb, which hung lower than the recommended 13'6" clearance, but leaving the tree. The Board asked that the limb be marked so that everyone knew which limb was under discussion and the Board would discuss it again on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Taxi Rates & Regulations:** Michael Mszanski of MV Taxi told the Board that Edgartown Selectmen had reached an understanding on meters and would be putting it to a vote soon. He expected the regulations would allow the taxi company to choose if they used meters or a flat rate. He said their regulations would be identical to Vineyard Haven's. Jen noted that the concern that Lighthouse Taxi had was related to the fact they only had a taxi stand at the airport and they were very likely to lose money if required to use meters. Skipper said the biggest complaint about the taxis is overcharging, this would solve that, he said he thought there should not be an option but all companies should only use meters. Kent said it should be left to the taxi companies. Cindy noted that the Board does oversee the companies so it cannot be left to them to decide. Cindy asked why the Board would change anything at this point, there is only one company left and if they leave there will be no more licensed. Skipper said he also wanted to talk about cameras. Michael said that cameras would not be popular with either the owners or the clientele.

*S Manter motioned to require meters in taxis as of April 1, 2019. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was SM in favor, KH & CM opposed.*