

**Approved 1/13/16**  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**SELECTMENS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, December 16, 2015 4:30 p.m. – 5:37 p.m.**

**Present:** Selectmen Cindy Mitchell, Richard Knabel, Skipper Manter, Jennifer Rand

**Also Present:** Ernie Thomas, Joe Tierney, Joan Ames, Edie Prescott, Heather Hamacek

**MV Commission Appointment:** Ernie Thomas said that he was enjoying his appointment to the Commission. He reviewed a few of the cases that they had in front of them over the year. He also noted that he was on the Finance Committee. Regarding the new director, he said his focus is on better communication with the towns.

*R. Knabel motioned to appoint Ernie Thomas to the MV Commission for one year. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Tree Planting at Triangle by WT Cemetery:** Jen said that the Tree Warden asked if he could plant a donated willow tree in the triangle. Richard said he thought the area looked bare without something planted there. Skipper said he would be in favor of something but not a willow, which he felt would block the view into the cemetery. Jen was asked to reach out to the Garden Club to see if they would like to plant something and to ask the Tree Warden to find another spot for the willow.

**Event Permit – Town Party:** *R. Knabel motioned to approve the permit for the town party belatedly. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Utilities Bylaw:** Jen said she would like to speak with Counsel, she explained that the Town Electrician, Tom Colligan, had asked if the town had a bylaw to prevent individuals from digging in the town right-of-way to bury power lines. She noted that there was a State Law that regulated utility companies, but she was not certain it would apply to a private individual. Cindy asked why the question had come up. Jen said that Tom was working with the Planning Board on subdivision regulations when this larger issue was raised. Tom's concern was that the town should know where these underground wires were for everyone's safety, and the town should be assured they were installed to some standard. Skipper said he didn't think it was really a problem and asked if she had spoken to the State. Jen said she had tried to speak to the Department of Telecommunications on another issue that same day and she had been unable to reach a human.

*R. Knabel motioned to allow access to Counsel. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was RK & CM in favor, SM opposed.*

**Library Gift:** *S. Manter motioned to accept a gift from the Library Friends for \$1,725 to pay for the color copier until July 1, 2016. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Letter of Support – Cape Cod Economic Development Council (CCEDC):** Jen explained that the CCEDC was looking for a letter of support for their "Blue Economy" grant, which is intended to create year-round sustainable wage jobs on the Cape and Islands. Cindy noted it would be good if this grant actually included Martha's Vineyard instead of just saying "the Islands" but not providing any direct benefit. Skipper said he would support the letter provided we send a second letter indicating our desire to see the Island truly included.

**Facilities Maintenance Committee:** Jen said she would like to add a person to this committee that may not have any building experience, but could offer some organizational skills, keeping the committee on track, posting meeting, doing minutes and the like. The Board said that would be fine.

**Building Department Budget:** Joe Tierney began by showing the Board the size of the houses that he issued permits to this year. The median size was approximately 2,000 square feet (SF). Cindy asked if this argued for setting the base size of the house, for fee purposes, from 1,500 SF to 2,000 SF. Joe said no, because the size was really based on the time for inspection. In reviewing his budget, Joe noted that the budget was based on the revised fee schedule, which the Board still needed to vote on. He noted that the budget increase would pay for a Local Inspector, and he had added funding for training and workspace for that person, he also added funding for travel. Skipper noted that right now the facilities management piece of Joe's job description is not getting much attention. Cindy said the hope is that the new person can ease some of Joe's load so he can focus on that piece also. Richard asked if there was enough off-island travel to justify an off-island car. Jen said that would take some analysis to see if the cost of a new car was justified for the amount of travel. She also noted that she would need to work on a policy for travel if the Board decided to buy a car. Skipper said he would like to reserve the option to reduce the new position if we no longer have a need.

*R. Knabel motioned to approve the budget. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Building Department Fees:** Joe asked the Board to approve the revised fee schedule he presented to them the week prior. Richard asked about accessory apartments. Joe said he omitted them inadvertently. He said that fee should remain at \$700. His goal was to have the fees take effect on July 1, 2016. Skipper said he was not in favor, he said that the town is charging fees for something that someone's taxes already pays for. He likened it to the Animal Control Officer charging if she picked up someone's dog.

*R. Knabel motioned to approve the budget. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was RK & CM in favor, SM opposed.*