

Approved 12/30/15
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, December 9, 2015 4:30 p.m. – 6:04 p.m.

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

Also Present: Joe Tierney, Kristin Zern, Martina Thornton, Dan Rossi, Heather Hamacek

Minutes: *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 11/18/15. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Dukes County Regional Housing Authority (DCRHA) Appointment: Kristin Zern said she was interested in housing issues noting she has adult children who live at home due to a shortage of available options. She said she was a member of the Airport Master Plan Committee. The Board thanked her for her interest.

R. Knabel motioned to appoint Kristin Zern to the DCRHA. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Modification to Senior Services Agreement: Martina Thornton, County Manager, said the change to the agreement was made to reflect a change to the bylaws of the Center 4 Living. This change will now include the Town-appointed members of the Oversight Board to be members of the Board of Directors. The end result is a streamlined system that eliminates the need for an additional Community Advisory Committee.

R. Knabel motioned to approve the changes to the Senior Services Agreement with the County. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

WT Police Department Enclosure: Chief Rossi said that for accreditation purposes he would like permission to construct a chain link enclosure that is 10'x20'x8'. Due to its height it will require permission from the Zoning Board and a building permit. The enclosure is to be used for evidence that is too large to be stored in the police department.

R. Knabel motioned to approve the request. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was RK & CM in favor, SM abstained.

Ban on Tobacco – Proposed Bylaw: Skipper said he thought the Town should propose a bylaw for a ban on the sale of tobacco products in town due to the known health risks. Jen said she had spoken to the Attorney General's office regarding the legality of such a ban and the Attorney said she could not render an opinion because it had never been tried in the State before. Richard noted that tobacco is legal even if it is harmful to your health. Skipper said he would like to speak to the Board of Health to hear their thoughts on the issue. The Board said that would be fine.

Radon: Jen explained that the Board had received a letter from a resident of Eliakim's Way expressing concern about high levels of Radon in the houses and asking the Board to work with Island Housing Trust (IHT) and South Mountain to install and pay for mitigation. She noted that the project was not a Town project, it was developed entirely by IHT, the Town is only mentioned in the covenants. Richard said he had spoken with John Abrams of South Mountain, and he expected the Town to get a letter from him in response to the letter the Board received. Jen said she had spoken to Philippe at IHT, he is aware of the concern but they have not yet determined what their response will be. Cindy said the Town could certainly help them in their

search for a solution. Richard said he knew a lot about Radon testing, he said the water testing is more complicated than the air quality testing. The Board asked Jen to respond with Richard's information and an offer of assistance.

All-Island School Committee (AISC) Request to Change Funding Formula: Richard said the School District Study Committee recommended that the Selectmen ask the AISC to change the shared services budget to shift responsibility for the budget cost from the receiving community for school choice to the sending community. He said the school choice reimbursement does not equal that cost. If this change was made West Tisbury should see a reduction of about \$160K. Skipper said the Up-Island District Committee had not voted on this but by consensus they agreed it should be changed. Cindy asked about process and whether the study committee planned to bring forward other such issues that were not directly related to their charge. Skipper noted he also had a question about this work as the charge was only to look at the benefits or detriments to the Town by staying in the District. Richard said the Committee remains focused on their charge but this issue arose and there was an issue of timeliness to address it.

R. Knabel motioned to recommend a change to the shared services funding formula. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Building Department Budget & Fees: Joe explained his new fee structure proposal noting that the cost of some permits would drop, but larger projects would have an increase. He also provided a breakdown of the types of permits that he had issued over the past few years. He said some numbers won't directly correlate because for the past two years he has provided a greater breakout of different types of permits issued. Joe noted the change in fees would have resulted in an increase of \$25k to the bottom line in FY '15. Skipper said he was concerned that the size of the "average" starter home at 1,500 SF was too small. Joe was asked to look at what the median size home built in town. The Board was generally supportive of the concept; Joe will come back next week with a proposed budget for his department. He did note the budget will include another work station, Jen said she would work with Joe to figure out his space needs.

Selectmen Budgets for FY '17: Legal: Skipper suggested reducing the budget to reflect the spending over the last couple years, which is roughly \$25K and then putting another \$25K into a warrant article that would be available for 5 years to reduce the annual amount raised if it isn't necessary. Cindy said she thought that would cause unnecessary confusion at town meeting, and the overall amount was not excessive so she wouldn't support that approach. Richard noted that if there were excess at the end of the year it would be available the following year in free cash.

Cemetery: Jen asked the Board if they would like to budget fencing work annually or if they did not wish to use the maintenance line for this work. The Board asked that the fence work be funded by warrant article, so that line was dropped from \$3K to \$1K. The line for professional services was increased to allow work to continue on the mapping project.

Town Hall: Jen said this budget's most notable increase was in postage, she said that she pays the postage bill for the whole building, and the ZBA was anticipating a change in the way they send abutter's notices from regular post to certified mail. Jen was asked to inquire if they will raise their fees to reflect that change. There were no comments on the other budgets.

S. Manter motioned to approve the budgets with the amendment to the cemetery budget. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Kathy said she was very concerned about the increasing cost of health insurance. She said that the Board should take a close look at staff increases because it will have an impact to the town even after they retire. She noted there may be economies to realize, in the Library for example, they

have added staff when they could increase the current employee's hours to meet that need without adding another person. She said this year she has had to budget for 4-5 additions to the health insurance line to prepare for potential retirees or new employees or other life changes in current staff that cause them to opt into insurance. One of the other impacts is to the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) line, she said the town is doing better than many in funding this, but is still falling behind. Skipper said, for discussion purposes, that the town should begin to look at the percentage it pays towards insurance. Kathy said another avenue to pursue might be to have the town pay "X" amount, which would be the current percentage of the least expensive plan, anything over that the employee would be responsible for if they opted for a more expensive plan. Skipper suggested, also for discussion purposes, that another option would be to pay only for the employee and not a family.

Facilities Maintenance Committee: The board discussed whether to appoint the three interested candidates or if they should wait and see if there are two more interested people. When originally discussed the size was not determined, so they decided to appoint three, but leave the option open to appoint two more.

S. Manter motioned to appoint Pat Mitchell, Manny Estrella and Scott Young to the committee. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.