

**Approved 12/16/15**  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**SELECTMENS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, December 2, 2015 4:30 p.m. – 5:40 p.m.**

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

**Also Present:** Dawn Barnes, Michael Colaneri, Janet Bank, Bruce Stone, Maria McFarland, Joe Tierney, Heather Hamacek, Edie Prescott

**Tax Rate Hearing:** Cindy read the public hearing notice.

*R. Knabel motioned to open the public hearing. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Dawn presented the new figures for the tax rate and presented the Board with options to maintain a single tax rate in town or shift some of the tax burden to either commercial or non-resident home owners. (*Presentation materials attached*). Michael said the Board of Assessors had voted to recommend a single tax rate, but he said the Selectmen should explore the option of a residential exemption to give year-round residents a break on their taxes. Dawn noted the excess levy capacity was much lower this year than in years past. Bruce said that means the town might need an override next year.

*S. Manter motioned to close the public hearing. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

*S. Manter motioned to maintain a single tax rate. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Minutes:** *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 11/4/15. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was CM & RK in favor, SM abstained.*

**Beer & Wine Renewals:** *S. Manter motioned to approve license renewals for State Road Restaurant and The Plane View. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Building Department Staffing:** Joe said that he was so busy that it now was taking up to 30 days to produce a building permit, which is the maximum length of time allowed by law. He said he was falling behind on annual inspections (the church, the airport and the gymnastics center for example). He said he was also having a hard time keeping up with zoning complaints, and the facilities work he was supposed to be doing. He said he would like to budget for a Local Inspector. This would allow the office to be open until 4:30 and provide a second person to keep up with the permitting. He said he was looking at a fee increase to try and offset the cost of the added personnel. He said in the fee changes there may be some smaller project fees that drop, but the larger jobs would increase. He noted that he has tried to shift some work to Pam Thors, Town Hall Assistant, who has been very helpful, but some of the work requires knowledge of the department that Pam could not be expected to have. Cindy asked Joe to bring in a budget that includes the fee increases. Richard said he was happy Joe was working on this. Skipper asked if Pam could be trained to do more. Joe said the training process was extensive and the same he went through when hired, he added that the District Officers did not recommend the work be attempted by administrative staff that do not have the appropriate background. Skipper asked if we could just hire someone to conduct inspections on a fee basis, Joe said he didn't think that would attract anyone to the job. Joe explained that the new hire would work on a conditional basis, as he had done, until they completed the training. Skipper said he was not in favor of raising fees, he said people already support the department by paying taxes.

**Cemetery Mapping:** Jen explained that there was \$5,000 available in the perpetual care fund that she would like to use to continue the mapping project. Bruce explained that fund was set up in such a way as to only allow the Board to spend the interest, the principal cannot be spent.

*S. Manter motioned to spend funds from the perpetual care account interest to continue the mapping project at the cemetery. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Electric Charging Stations:** Skipper asked if the town should put a charging station for electric vehicles at the town buildings. Richard noted there were two types of stations, one would charge much faster than the other, he didn't think they were terribly expensive. Jen noted a concern that the parking lots at the town hall and library were already tightly constrained so she would worry about losing a parking spot or two at each. Richard said he would look into the issue further.

**Charge for Town Buildings Maintenance Committee:** Richard said he had a couple small changes to the charge developed by Jen, Kathy and Joe.

*R. Knabel motioned to accept the Committee Charge as amended. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Proposed Donation:** The Board discussed the offer from Michael Stone of an eel pot with ties to local families. They determined that while the offer was very generous, there is not room for it in town hall and asked Jen to suggest either the museum or the MV Agricultural Society.