

DRAFT
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, January 24, 2018 4:30 p.m. – 6:05 pm

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

Also Present: Kathy Logue, Matt Mincone, Manny & Sharon Estrella, Jonathan Klaren, Tony Cordray, Ben Retmier, Bruce Stone, Michael Colaneri, Holly Pretsky, R. Saltzberg, Mark Lovewell

Minutes: *C. Mitchell motioned to approve the minutes of 1/10/18. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Executive Session: *C. Mitchell motioned to go into executive session to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices, or strategies with respect thereto and to then return to open session. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion was conducted with CM & KH in favor SM opposed.*

Town Meeting Warrant Articles: Jen went through the warrant articles that are the responsibility of the Board of Selectmen. The two articles putting funds into Road and Building Maintenance Funds were postponed to next year. Kathy noted they were not on the Capital Improvement's chart for this year, and the Town's expenses this year were already looking to be higher than normal. The remaining articles were approved by the Board, with the exception of the article granting an easement for underground electrical service to the neighbors to the Scott's Grove project. The Board deferred a final decision on that article until they could see a map of the requested easement.

Field Gallery Lease: Jen reviewed questions posed by the Murphys, who are the tenant of the Town's lease property. With the proposed new lease they asked if the Town would allow them to continue to allow non-profit events on the lawn if the Town was maintaining the grounds. The Board said yes, they also clarified that the Town would only be responsible for mowing the lawn the gardens and shoveling would be the tenant's responsibility. The Board said in response to a request to perhaps further negotiate the rent based on not knowing they would have to pay taxes the Board noted it was clearly stated in the RFP that the lessor was responsible for taxes so it should not have been a surprise, so they would not further negotiate beyond taking over responsibility for mowing.

The Board took a ten minute recess** **Skipper recused himself for the remainder of the meeting

Public Meeting with Police Chief Candidate Matt Mincone: Cindy said, as background, that Chief Rossi had submitted notice of his upcoming resignation to the Board. He then sent a letter supporting the promotion of Lt. Matt Mincone to the position. Subsequently, the entire Police Department came to a Selectmen's meeting with a letter indicating full departmental support for such a promotion. This support was echoed by the Fire Chief, Animal Control Officer and Highway Superintendent. As a result, in a departure from past practice the Board decided not to advertise the position but consider Matt for the position, and the meeting tonight was a chance for the public to hear from Matt and ask questions if they wished.

Cindy began by asking Matt to introduce himself. He said he had worked for the department since 1995. His career started after college with an internship with the probation department, followed by a summer police position in Gay Head. He finds the job rewarding, he has worked every position in the department, so he understands what each job entails. He said the progression to Chief in West Tisbury was the progression he had hoped for. Kent asked how long he thought he would stay in the position. Matt said 8-10 years; he said he would like to finish his career here. Kent asked his thoughts on an all-island police force. Matt said he would be concerned about a change to the culture of policing in town. Cindy asked what Matt felt worked well in the department and what needs improvement. Matt said that the hierarchical command model, where the Chief sits and listens to all but makes the final decisions works well. He said he learned Community Policing from Tim Rich, modernizing and documentation from Beth Toomey, Skipper taught him about West Tisbury and Chief Rossi taught him to listen and to play "Devil's Advocate" to explore options. He said he would not make big changes, the department is very professional. Cindy asked Matt to define Community Policing. Matt said he has been a hockey coach for 20 years, this has taught him the important of maintaining that connection with the residents from a young age. Richard Saltzberg asked if Matt was concerned about a shrinking work force. Matt said he hoped to develop a program to encourage young people to come into the program. Dan Rossi asked Matt if he felt the staffing levels were appropriate for West Tisbury. Matt said yes. Kathy Logue asked if there was more the department could be doing in the schools to try and keep kids safe in light of the tragic car accident the week before. Matt said he has been trying to explain to the boys he coaches that they aren't invincible; he said he wished he could find a way to take the recklessness out of the boys. He said providing opportunities such as internships will give them a way to get involved in something. Cindy asked what Matt appreciated most about West Tisbury. Matt said he was thankful everyone was patient with him while he was learning and that the town appreciates the Police Department and says thank you. Bruce said that he had worked with Matt over the past few years and found him to be very responsive. Ben Retmier, Ambulance Chief said TriTown Ambulance supported Matt's appointment. Tony Cordray, Animal Control Officer asked if Matt would continue to work in the same cooperative manner with the Fire Department and Animal Control. Matt said yes. Kathy said she found Matt very approachable and available. Dan noted that the department will soon be fully accredited due to Matt's hard work. Matt explained that the accreditation process creates a policy manual for everyone to follow that is a living breathing document that will continue to be studied and updated. When asked the department's relationship with the State Police and Board of Selectmen, Matt said he felt there was a good working relationship with both. Kent said he was impressed by the support shown Matt. Matt responded that he was humbled by it.