

Approved 12/27/17
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, December 6, 2017 4:30 p.m. – 5:50 pm

Present: Selectmen Skipper Manter, Cindy Mitchell, Kent Healy, Pam Thors

Also Present: Anthony Cordray- Animal Control Officer, Bruce Stone-Town Accountant, Kathy Logue-Treasurer, Garrison Vieira and Dan Rossi-West Tisbury Police Department, Richard Olsen-Highway Department Superintendent, Richard Andre-President of Vineyard Power, Manny Estrella-Fire Chief, Steven Myrick, Lynn Christophers,

Minutes: *C. Mitchell motioned to approve the minutes of 11/15/17 and 11/20/17 with corrections. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Bond Anticipation Notes (BANS): Kathy Logue, Treasurer presented information regarding the Bond Anticipation Notes (BANS) for the Scott's Grove Affordable Housing Project (\$500,000 borrowed) and the Fire Truck (\$400,000 borrowed). Kathy stated that the rate of interest will be 1.3%. The Board signed the Statehouse note and accompanying documents.

Fire Chief Budget: Manny Estrella, Fire Chief presented his budget. He cited the increases for his stipend, (\$5,000), Emergency Services and Training, (\$3,000) and Insurance, (\$6,000). He also noted that he would like to have two articles on the next Annual Town Meeting warrant for resurfacing Station 1-\$70,000 and for the purchase of a vehicle for the department for his use-\$60,000. He noted that the Fireman's Association would like to pay \$10,000 toward the purchase of the vehicle. Skipper stated that he feels that the town should incur 100% of the cost of the vehicle leaving the Fireman's Association the flexibility to use the \$10,000 elsewhere. Cindy and Kent agreed with Skipper that providing the vehicle is the town's responsibility.

C. Mitchell moved to support the purchase of a Fire Department vehicle for the Fire Chief's use paying 100% of the cost. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Vineyard Power re: Letter of Support for Wind Project: Richard Andre, president of Vineyard Power presented his proposal to the Board. He went over the many local benefits they are prepared to offer the island such as employment opportunities, and Education and Training opportunities coordinated with the local school system. He stated that Martha's Vineyard would be eligible for a 5 million dollar grant for wind power storage. He also stated that there is support for the project from various state legislators. He verified that Vineyard Power is a subsidiary of Vineyard Wind. Kent asked about the details of the project. Richard stated that the project would be 14 miles offshore with turbines one nautical mile apart and would generate 400 megawatts of power for every 40 turbines. Skipper talked about the pros and cons of the project, citing that 100 turbines would have quite a visual impact. He also asked about the Carbon impact of developing the project versus the benefits. Richard answered that for one year of cost; there would be a similar benefit for about 29 years. Cindy asked about the timeline. Richard said they are looking at 2 and ½ years of permitting and financing, estimating construction during 2020 and operation by 2021. When asked how much electricity would come directly to Martha's Vineyard, Richard stated that some would go to Yarmouth and West Barnstable but that the gain would come back in the form of credits for the Vineyard.

K. Healy made a motion to sign the letter of support for the Vineyard Power project. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Highway Superintendent re: Snow Removal: Richard Olsen, Highway Superintendent discussed a new approach he was just learning about to keep the roads clear this winter. He described a process of pre-treating the roads with salt prior to a snowstorm. He said that he wanted the Selectmen to know that he has been considering the process but is still unsure of making the change. Skipper recommended that he look further into the cost and effectiveness and come back to them with a written proposal if he is convinced that this would be a positive change.

Skipper mentioned two stipends, one for the Highway Superintendent and the other for the Fire Chief that he considers to be “embarrassingly low”. He cited the responsibility and hard work inherent in both jobs and the issue of hiring new people for them when Richie and Manny someday retire. He said that yearly increases in the salaries for these positions would bring the compensation in line when the need to hire new employees is at hand.

C. Mitchell moved to add \$7,500.00 for FY19 and each year thereafter to the Highway Superintendent’s stipend. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

****C. Mitchell, Vice Chair ran this portion of the meeting****

Police Chief Search Process: Garrison Vieira, WT Police Sergeant read a letter signed by nine members of the Department, in support of Matt Mincone being appointed as the next West Tisbury Police Chief, (see attached). Garrison then added his personal endorsement of Matt’s character. Manny Estrella-Fire Chief, Anthony Cordray-Animal Control Officer, Bruce Stone-Town Accountant, Kathy Logue, Town Treasurer, Dan Rossi-current West Tisbury Chief of Police, reiterated his support of Matt, citing that Matt, having authored the recently updated West Tisbury Police Department Policies and Procedures, is now an expert on them. He went on further in his praise stating that hiring Matt would enable the department and the town to experience a seamless transition.

Cindy stated that this is the first time she has heard such an endorsement for an applicant. She asked how the department would feel if the Selectmen did not “open up” the field of applicants. Manny stated that he did not think it would be a problem. Tony emphasized the community respect for Matt. Dan said that Edgartown and Oak Bluffs have proceeded in a similar manner. He stated that it is allowable because the Chief of Police does not fall under the purview of the Personnel Board so the usual advertising and interviewing process is not required. Kent stated that the Selectmen can make the decision not to open up the search.

K. Healy made a motion to recognize that there is not a need for a full blown search to appoint a new Police Chief. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The motion passed with one abstention, (Skipper Manter).

Bruce suggested that for the sake of transparency, that there is a public interview. Cindy agreed saying that there should be a process followed. Kathy suggested a Public Hearing so that the public is made aware of the intent of the Board of Selectmen.

****Skipper resumed Chairing the meeting****

Beer & Wine Renewals: *C. Mitchell made a motion to approve 2018 Retail License Renewals for State Road LLC and Plane View, Inc. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Green Communities Annual Report: *C. Mitchell made a motion to authorize S. Manter to sign the Green Communities Report that was prepared by Sue Hruby and the Energy Committee. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Larsen Dog Update: Anthony Cordray, Animal Control Officer brought the Selectmen up to date on the situation regarding Nathaniel Larson's dog Tupelo. The Selectmen had ordered that the dog be kept tethered or fenced in at all times. Tony reported that the dog was loose on the property on 11/05/17 in violation of that order. He said that because Nathaniel was trying so hard to constrain the dog that he would like to give him one more chance. If the dog were found to be loose again, he stated that the dog must be euthanized.

C. Mitchell moved that if Nathaniel Larson's dog Tupelo gets loose again that the Animal Control Officer will seize the dog and proceed with euthenization. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 5:50pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pam Thors, Administrative Assistant

Please see attachment below

To: The Honorable West Tisbury Selectmen,
From: Members of the West Tisbury Police Department
Date: December 6, 2017

We the undersigned members of the West Tisbury Police Department submit this letter of recommendation supporting Lieutenant Matthew Mincone's promotion to Chief of Police.

Lt. Matthew Mincone has been an officer with the West Tisbury Police Department since 1995. During his tenure with the department, he has served at every rank, including in the senior leadership role of Lieutenant for the last six years. We are certain, should Lt. Matthew Mincone be promoted to Chief; the development and success of this department and our community will benefit greatly from his knowledge, experience, and leadership skills.

During the past year, Lt. Matthew Mincone has worked tirelessly on getting the department accredited. On January 18, 2017, the department became certified, which is the first step in the process of becoming accredited. Lt. Matthew Mincone has the department on track to achieve accreditation in 2018.

In addition to working for the police department, Lt. Matthew Mincone has been head of the MVRHS Boys Hockey program since 1998. He is an active member of the island community and an exemplary role model for its young people.

Lt. Matthew Mincone will continue to lead the department in protecting and serving the community, its residents, and its visitors with the highest of standards. As Chief, Lt. Matthew Mincone will maintain the high level of morale, that we are so proud of, that has been developed within the department. He will also maintain our community policing standards that the Town of West Tisbury has become accustomed to.

For these reasons, we are confident that Lt. Matthew Mincone is the right choice as the next West Tisbury Chief of Police.

Respectfully submitted,

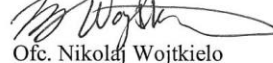

Sgt. Garrison Vieira,


Ofc. Daniel Gouldrup,


Ofc. Leomar DeOliveira,


Det. Matthew Gebo,


Ofc. Bradley Cortez,


Ofc. Nikolaj Wojtkiello


Ofc. Daniel Durawa,


Ofc. Diane Demoe


Exec. Asst. Samantha Smith