

Approved 12/6/17
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, November 15, 2017 4:30 p.m. – 5:40 pm

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

Also Present: Dawn Barnes, Michael Colaneri, Louis DeGeoffroy, R. Saltzburg

Tax Rate Hearing: Skipper read the public hearing notice, noting that due to a scheduling change the hearing would be opened and continued to 5:00 pm.

C. Mitchell motioned to open and continue the public hearing to 5:00 pm. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Minutes: *C. Mitchell motioned to approve the minutes of 11/01/17. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the minutes was unanimous in favor.*

Commercial Shellfish License – William Diamond: *K. Healy motioned to approve a commercial shellfish license for William Diamond. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Field Gallery Lease: Skipper said the Town had gone out to bid to lease the Field Gallery. There was one response, from the Granary Gallery. He noted again that he works paid details for the gallery during the summer. Jen said that the Board was to use the evaluation criteria laid out in the request for proposals to determine if the submitted proposal was advantageous to the Town. The Board said they had reviewed the submittal and they all felt it was a good fit for the space.

C. Mitchell motioned to award a five year lease with an option to renew to the Granary Gallery for \$3,000 for the first five years. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the minutes was unanimous in favor.

Library Water Intrusion Issue: Skipper noted that the library fix had gotten bogged down in the details of who was responsible for paying for the work. He thanked Jen, Pat, Tucker, Louis and the Facilities Committee for the work they had done to this point and noted there would be a Selectmen's meeting on Monday to discuss the next steps.

School Funding Task Force: Skipper said that at the last joint meeting each town said they would bring back a proposal for discussion. Cindy said that was not quite accurate she said that each town was going to bring back areas of the formula that might be more fairly apportioned. She said she had met with Bruce Stone and Amy Tierney and developed a list of options for discussion. She said that she wanted to take that list and distribute it early next week to everyone to think about prior to the next meeting. Skipper asked that she include on her list an equal split of fixed costs at the West Tisbury School. He said he thought each school needed a separate funding formula. Cindy will draft an email for Jen to send out prior to Thanksgiving.

Tax Rate Hearing: The hearing was reconvened at 5:00 pm. Dawn said the department had fully switched over to Patriot Systems and no longer uses Vision Appraisal for anything. She then presented the tax rate options (separately included as part of the minutes). Regarding the residential exemption, Kent asked if he had a house valued lower than the maximum exemptions if he would pay no taxes. Dawn said no, ever taxpayer would pay no less than 10% of their tax

value. She noted that the Board of Assessors had voted to recommend a residential exemption of at least the lowest rate possible. She said that in West Tisbury 53% of homes are primary residences, which would be eligible for the exemption. She noted that 15 communities use the exemption at varying rates. Cindy asked if the Board had recommended the exemption in the past. Michael said they have not always taken a formal vote. He noted there are already exemptions in place for veterans, the blind and farmers. Skipper closed the hearing. He then asked if the Board wished to consider a commercial exemption. Cindy said no. Regarding the residential exemption, Cindy said that she that did not think the Board should participate in the exemption. Skipper said he thought all taxpayers were created equal so he didn't think it fair to shift the tax burden to only 50% of the population. He noted that many seasonal residents did not own multimillion dollar homes and further none of the seasonal residents had children in the school system or created much of a burden on other services, he added that many have been part of our community for generations. Kent said he felt everyone should pay the same taxes.

C. Mitchell motioned to accept the factor of 1 for the tax rate. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

C. Mitchell motioned to deny the residential exemption. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

C. Mitchell motioned to deny the small commercial exemption. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.