

**Approved 11/1/17**  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**SELECTMENS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, October 11, 2017 4:30 p.m. – 5:55 pm**

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

**Also Present:** Antoniya Sabeva, Ivoni Sabeva, Michael Noel, John Rau, Richard Saltzberg, Heather Hamacek,

**Minutes:** *C. Mitchell motioned to approve the minutes of 9/6/17, 9/13/17 with one amendment and 9/27/17. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor for 9/6 & 9/13 SM abstained from 9/27.*

**Taxi Rate & Regulation Hearing:** Skipper said that the hearing was to discuss the Board's decision to require meters and cameras and to determine rates using the current rates as a starting point. Kent asked if the other island towns required meters. Skipper said no. He said the goal was to assure that fares are not overcharged, and to standardize the rates. Michael said that his company, Lighthouse Taxi, did not want to switch to meters. He said that would put them out of business because no other companies were required to have meters. He said he did not have a problem with the camera requirement, he felt that would likely benefit them as well. He said he was concerned also about the cost of the meters. Cindy said the Board was sensitive to that concern and was prepared to work with the companies on that. Cindy asked why the meters would put them out of business. Ivoni said that when a customer calls now they ask the cost of a ride and can get a clear answer, further, if the company is not busy they are often willing to negotiate the price a bit to keep the business. Meters would not allow this to happen. The fare could not be adjusted down, and the customer could only be given an estimate of cost. This would likely send them to another company. She noted that the bulk of their business is not at the airport but calls from customers. Ivoni then asked how the meters would work when they are taking someone sightseeing or in use for a wedding. Jen said that the rules are different at that moment because you are acting as a livery, not a taxi so meters would not be used. Skipper said perhaps the solution would be to allow the passenger to decide if they wished to have a metered fare or use the town's fare sheet. Michael said they would be willing to try one meter to see how it works but he didn't want to pay for it. Cindy noted that Uber and Lyft use a pricing model closer to what is the current practice and it may be that the town is moving towards a technology that is going to change soon. Michael asked what access to video the town would want. Skipper said he envisioned only requested access in the event of an incident so the data would have to be stored for some determined length of time. He said he would research the cost of data storage.

**School Funding Formula – Discussion about Warrant Article to Vote to Withdraw:** John said he thought the Board should consider adding an article to withdraw noting Chilmark's reluctance to meet to discuss a change to the funding formula. Cindy noted that the Boards now have agreed to meet in the next couple of weeks. She said she understood why Chilmark was reluctant to talk about the proposal from the WT Subcommittee because the outcome could be considered somewhat radical, with a huge shift of cost to Chilmark. John asked what the benefit was to the town to stay in the district. Skipper said there no longer was a benefit. Jen noted that the town would have to assume the responsibility of the school including accounting, payroll, union negotiations and procurement. Cindy said the original agreement was put into place to formalize capital cost expense distribution; the benefit for transportation costs no longer exists. She said the vote to withdraw was put on hold while this three town discussion process was underway.

**Funding Subcommittee:** Skipper said he was concerned that the group of three volunteers worked very hard on the funding proposal and their work has been set aside by the Board. He said he wanted to ask the same group of volunteers to begin to investigate the cost to the town of leaving the district. Cindy said she wanted to see this process through first. John said he understood wanting to see the process through, but he really did not see any benefit to the town to stay in the district. Cindy said she did not agree that the town got nothing from the arrangement.

**Vendor Permits for the Fair:** Jen explained that the Town permitted the fair booths very differently than any other events and she thought it made sense to standardize that. In example, the Farmer's Market gets one event permit for the entire season no matter how many booths they have its just \$25. That is true for the Artisan's shows also. Then when the Fair comes around each individual booth must get a permit, the carnival gets a permit no matter how many booths they have and the Ag. Society gets a permit. The food booths also must get a permit from the Board of Health and all there are also tent permits and gas permits. Jen suggested that the Selectmen permits be limited to one event permit for the Ag. Society for the Fair, and then the booths that needs tent permits, food permits etc. would also have to get those. Cindy asked how much money the town took in for the individual booths. Jen said maybe \$350. Skipper thought it was more, but worst case it would be a loss of \$500.

*C. Mitchell motioned to approve the change in permitting the fare to only require the Agricultural Society to obtain an event permit from the Selectmen. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Friends of the Library Donation:** *C. Mitchell motioned to accept with gratitude \$12,000 for landscaping at the library. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*