

**Approved 2/22/17**  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**SELECTMENS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 1, 2017 4:30 p.m. – 5:52 p.m.**

**Present:** Selectmen Richard Knabel, Cynthia Mitchell, Skipper Manter (@4:47) Jennifer Rand  
**Also Present:** Susan Silk, Nikolaj Wojtkielo, Dan Rossi, Peyton Wallace, Prudence Fisher, John Tiernan, David Steere, Mike Colaneri, Bruce Stone, Joan Ames, Nicole Galland, Heather Hamacek

**Minutes:** *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 1/11/17. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Animal Control (ACO) Budget:** Richard said he was concerned that the proposed ACO budget was creating a new benefitted position for the Assistant. Prudence said the Assistant was originally hired to average 20 hours weekly. Cindy said that was not correct, the intent was for an average of about 10 hours weekly. Prudence said she created her budget based on an analysis of the call logs from the last five years showing a pattern of increase, and she added that Joanie had told her she did not bill for all the hours she worked. She said she was concerned if she used the past years budget for the number of hours that she would go over her budget. Cindy noted that Prudence had met with the Town Administrator and was told to bring the budget to the Board prior to submittal if there was a proposed increase in hours. Skipper said he thought the hours should be budgeted as they were last year and perhaps a line could be added with additional funds to tap into as needed. Cindy said the Board could request a reserve fund transfer if needed. Prudence was asked to amend her budget to reflect the hours budgeted last year.

**Jake Brakes – Proposed Warrant Article:** David Steere asked the Board to consider adding an article to the Town Meeting warrant for a bylaw to ban the use of jake brakes in West Tisbury. He said the bylaw would have a fine of \$100 for the first offence, \$300 thereafter. Dan said he has called the trucking companies and asked them not to use the brakes, and for the most part they are compliant. He said in talking to Richard Olsen about their use he said the only time you really need to use them in town is if you are driving too fast. Cindy asked why they are a problem. Dan explained they are very loud. Richard asked Dan about the fine structure. Dan said he thought it was high. David said he felt that was the only way to have the bylaw be a true deterrent.

*S. Manter motioned to put the proposed bylaw on the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**WT Police Department Appointment:** Dan said that Nikolaj Wojtkielo had worked for the department in the past. He said the town had sponsored him to go to the Police Academy; he had worked for the town of Vineyard Haven upon graduation and now wished to work for WT.

*C. Mitchell motioned to accept the Police Chief's recommendation to appoint Nikolaj Wojtkielo to the position of Patrol Officer for a term of three years. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was CM & RK in favor, SM abstained.*

**Highway Budget:** Skipper said he thought the Board had discussed the Superintendent's budget and planned to add \$5,000 each year to bring the stipend in line with the responsibilities of the job. Richard noted the budget had already been reviewed by the Finance Committee. Skipper said this was the first chance he had to bring it to the Board to discuss. Cindy said her memory was that it would be raised for two consecutive years by \$5k, which had happened; she suggested speaking with the Superintendent at the beginning of the budget process next year.

**Conservation Commission Associate Appointment:** Peyton Wallace introduced himself. He said he had recently moved to WT and wanted to get involved in the town somehow. He felt with his real estate background and interest in the environment this would be a good fit. The Board thanked him for his interest.

*S. Manter motioned to appoint Peyton Wallace to the Conservation Commission as an associate for a one year term. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Tax Collector Position:** The Board discussed a request from Doug Ruskin to consider placing an article on the warrant to change the position of Tax Collector from elected to appointed once the current Tax Collector retires. Jen said she spoke with Counsel regarding the process and if the article was on the warrant and ballot it would take effect immediately, there was no way to have it voted to not change until the current person retires. The Board said they would not pursue the issue further at this time.

**Selectmen's Expense Budget:** Jen said she would like to ask the Assessors to reduce their budget by \$3k (the amount of their proposed car stipend) and add that same amount to the Selectmen's budget. This would allow her to pay for insurance and maintenance of the lease vehicles for the next fiscal year. The Board thought that was appropriate.

**Selectmen & Cemetery Commissioner Reports:** *S. Manter motioned to approve the two annual reports with edits by Richard Knabel. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Warrant Article Review Prior to Closing Date:** Jen asked the Board if they wished to have an article for the local option to allow the Selectmen to reduce the speed limit in thickly settled areas from 30 mph to 25 mph. Skipper said he didn't think that Music Street and Panhandle met the definition. Jen said this would not have any impact until and unless the Board at a later date wished to take some action on thickly settled areas.

*C. Mitchell motioned to add the article to the warrant. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was CM & RK in favor, SM opposed.*

**Street License:** John Tiernan said that the State was asking for the Board's approval for his company, Oak Bluffs Land & Wharf, to travel on State Road and the West Tisbury Road. Skipper asked if the vans were handicapped accessible. John said no, if the business is successful and they can afford it he would look into that at a later date.

*C. Mitchell motioned to approve the street license for Oak Bluffs Land & Wharf to travel on the roads mention. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was CM & RK in favor, SM opposed due to accessibility issues.*

**School Formula Study Report:** Skipper said he would like to send the report to the three town committee to begin discussions about a change to the formula, he noted nothing would happen for the upcoming fiscal year, but this would be to begin to prepare for FY '19. Susan said she thought the Board needed to have a formula versus try to find a number that each town is okay with paying. Cindy said she thought it was confusing to talk about a new formula in the middle of the budget season for FY '18. She said she thought the Board should let the report stand, but not take a vote on the proposed formula. She said the next step should be to send it to the committee to begin the conversation. Jen was asked to send the report to the other two towns and ask that the committee discuss the proposed formula.

**Recreational Oyster Season:** *S. Manter motioned to extend the recreational oyster season until 4/30/17 C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*