

Approved 8/30/17
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, August 09, 2017 4:30 p.m. – 5:55 pm

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

Also Present: Chuck Hodgkinson, Matt D’Andrea, Jessica Elder, Kate Devane, Michael Colaneri, Beatrice Nessen, Joe Tierney, June Manning, Michael Marcus, Heather Hamacek, Rich Salzburg

NStar Public Hearing – Old Stage Rd to 93 Dr. Fisher: Skipper reopened the public hearing and noted again that the only road under discussion during the hearing would be Old Stage Rd. which is a public way. Jessica detailed the project as described in the submittal. Skipper asked that the Highway Superintendent and John Keene’s business be given 48 hours’ notice before work and that the work not be scheduled on a Tuesday as that is a very busy day for the dump.

C. Mitchell motioned to approve the request with the conditions stated. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Minutes: *C. Mitchell motioned to approve the minutes of 7/5, 7/12 & 7/19/17. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor for 7/5 & 7/12, CM abstained on 7/19.*

School Funding Concept: Chuck Hodgkinson presented the Board with a funding concept that would entail an additional fee at the ferry; said funds would be used to fund the Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) mandate and the high school renovation. (powerpoint is attached). Matt said they were facing challenges in the years ahead with a major school renovation project likely to cost in the range of \$75 million and the unfunded OPEB mandate. Chuck said that Chilmark had voted to support the proposal. Cindy asked if there were other school districts that had proposed similar funding methods to the Legislature. Chuck said he didn’t know, but he got the idea from a toll charged on the Triborough Bridge that was used to pay for other highway projects. Cindy asked what stake of Steamship Travelers had no stake in the Island and further was it fair to burden visitors with our liabilities? Kent said there are other funding needs on the island, and echoed the questions raised by Cindy. Kate said that visitors to the island all have a stake in the health of the year-round community. Michael Marcus thanked Chuck and said the Board should offer their support. Skipper said the proposal was a tax no matter what it was called and he thought it was unfair and would only affect the middle and lower incomes while the higher income travelers arrive by plane and are not charged. If the costs are funded through taxes the apportionment is fairer. He said he would like to know the percentage of steamship trips taken by those without profile numbers. He said he was also concerned that the school grant funding could be jeopardized if the school funding group saw there was an alternate source of funding. Michael Colaneri said this was not stopping the bleeding on rising school spending. The Board took no action at this meeting.

Request for Assistance in Tisbury Building Department: Jen said that Tisbury had asked for assistance from Joe Tierney to help with permitting projects at the museum because their Building Inspector is an abutter and thus has a conflict. She said at first it appeared they needed help only for an event on an upcoming weekend. Later it became clear they were looking for someone to be able to do any permitting at the site. Jen said in speaking with Joe they shared the same concern that he simply doesn’t have the time to add this to his responsibilities. The Board

felt that if there was something we could do to help them out this weekend that would be fine, but the over the long term they agreed Joe didn't have the time.

Samaritans of Cape Cod and the Islands Day: *C. Mitchell motioned to proclaim September 7, 2017 Samaritans of Cape Cod and the Islands Day. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Friends of the WT Library Donation: *C. Mitchell motioned to accept with gratitude \$20,600 from the Friends. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Event Permit & 1 Day Beer & Wine: *C. Mitchell motioned to authorize a permit for the Island Autism Group at the Grange on 8/12/17. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Ag. Fair Entertainment License: *C. Mitchell motioned to grant an entertainment license for the Ag. Fair from 8/17-8/19 to allow music and rides until 11:00 pm with everyone off the property by midnight. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Mill Pond Plaque: Jen said the Friends of the Mill Pond had raised the balance of what was owed to Alan Gowell. Skipper said he appreciated the change in their position and thanks them. Cindy said she too appreciated the gesture. Beatrice said it was a moment of pride for the community.