

Approved 4/19/17
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, March 22, 2017 4:30 p.m. – 5:48 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Richard Knabel, Cynthia Mitchell, Skipper Manter, Jennifer Rand

Also Present: Pat Mitchell, Scott Young, Joe Tierney, Beth Kramer, Heather Hamacek, Edie Prescott

Mass Highway (MADOT) Proposal: Jen explained that she and Keith Olsen had met with representatives from MADOT District 5, Senator Cyr and Representative Fernandes regarding a proposal for the towns to take over the general maintenance of state roads on the island. She said that the proposal did not include an explanation of how the towns would be reimbursed for the increased responsibility. She said that in the meeting she had explained that this proposal would fundamentally change the way West Tisbury operates, requiring a change to a full-time Public Works head and probably more staff and equipment. She noted the down-island towns already have those systems in place so they could potentially take this on. Nothing was decided at the meeting, MADOT was only looking to see if it was even something the towns would consider. Jen said that while she didn't think it was something West Tisbury would want to do she felt it was better to develop a reasoned response showing the burden to the town versus simply saying no without appearing to even consider the proposal. She noted a concern that if the down-island towns did agree to this the up-island towns could be impacted whether they wanted to or not. Jen said she was working with Kathy to develop a cost projection for personnel and will sit with Keith Olsen and Richie Olsen to look at further staffing and equipment needs. When that has been developed she will turn that information over to MADOT. Skipper said the town should just say no and be done with it. He noted the lack of service from the Environmental Police and State Forest and felt this would further short-change the town. Richard said he agreed with the approach to pull together the cost implications to present a full package of information to the state. Cindy said the information should be given under the discussion of "this is how much it will cost, how are you (the state) going to pay for it?" She noted that she felt the request was unreasonable.

Facilities Maintenance Priority List: Pat said the committee had met and reviewed the Consultant's priority list for work on town buildings beyond the Field Gallery and the Library. Pat noted the next item, which is a foundation leak at the Howes House, had been moved up after the last rain storm when water was coming into the crawl space with the force of a garden hose. There are concerns that this will weaken the entire foundation if not corrected. He noted that it may be determined that the library is given a "bandaid" in order to fix the Howes House before permanent damage is done. Cindy said it was important for the voters to see a plan with estimated costs at town meeting to understand why the first request for \$100k is reasonable, and will almost certainly be followed with similar request over the next 4-5 years. She said the Capital Improvements Committee has programmed this expense out for at least 5 years. Beth asked what the next steps were to keep the maintenance moving forward. Jen said there was money in next year's budget to pay for a consultant to help move the work forward one more year, and the Building Inspector's job description includes such work so it may transition to that department after that. Jen also noted there was a stabilization fund available to put money into so that larger capital expenses can be paid for over time eventually. Cindy said that the maintenance budget should be a percentage of building value once the town is caught up on what has been deferred. Skipper said the town should begin the process now of bidding for the Field Gallery roof so the work could be done right after town meeting. The Board discussed who should pay for that based on the lease requirements.

Friends of Family Planning Charity Wine & Event Permit: *S. Manter motioned to approve the charity wine license and event permit for the Friends of Family Planning annual art gala. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Building Department Staffing Budget Discussion: Joe explained that he had been reviewing his budget in light of the Board's request to further discuss the request to increase Jeffrey's hours by ten hours/week. He said that he had budget for ten hours due to the continued demand in the office and the amount of time taken currently by Jeffrey to keep up with that demand. He said he was willing to only add 5 hours to Jeffrey's week keeping the other 5 in reserve unless it was needed. Cindy said she agreed with that approach of starting with less hours and not increasing if not needed. Skipper said he was concerned that the department has grown so quickly, he would like to see the actual budget dropped to five added hours.

Child Care at Town Meeting: Jen said that she had spoken with the insurance company, which had raised a number of issues about the liability concerns of the town offering child care. They had sent a list of questions that Jen did not feel could be resolved in such a short period of time. She noted that in speaking to other towns none offered child care for such liability reasons. Skipper said he thought Jen should be able to resolve the issues in time for the meeting. Cindy said she agreed it was too late for this year. Richard will speak to the article at town meeting.

Resignation from Historic District Commission (HDC): *S. Manter motioned to accept with thanks Lanny McDowell's resignation from the HDC. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*