

Approved 3/15/17
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, February 22, 2017 4:30 p.m. – 5:45 p.m.

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

Also Present: Geoff Rose, Doug Ruskin, Matt D'Andrea, Theresa Manning, Philippe Jordi, John Abrams, Richard Smith, Rez Williams, Harriet Bernstein, Karl Nelson, Joan Ames, Edie Prescott

Minutes: *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 1/11/17, 1/18/17, 2/1/17 & 2/8/17. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor for all but 2/8/17 from which R. Knabel abstained.*

Energy Committee Appointment: *S. Manter motioned to appoint Richard Andre and Ron Dagostino to the Energy Committee. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Ballot Question re: Affordable Housing Bank: John Abrams said he as there as part of the Vineyard Housing Bank Citizen's Committee to request the Board place the following non-binding question on the ballot: *Are you in favor of establishing a regional housing bank, to address the critical housing needs on the Vineyard? The initial funding for this housing bank will come from a portion of each town's existing Community Preservation Act ("CPA") funds.* He noted that Vineyard Haven had approved the question being placed on the ballot without the last sentence and Edgartown had not approved its placement on the ballot. Cindy asked about the proposal in the Housing Production Plan to request a legislative change to allow a fee on property transfers. John said they wanted to use the ballot question as a way to see if the voters support such measures. Cindy said she agreed with Vineyard Haven's decision to strike the last sentence. Skipper said that sentence made it look like the CPA funding would be determined without the normal process of the CPA Committee vetting the applications and allowing the voters at town meeting to decide. He asked what the make-up of the Committee would be. John said he didn't know yet, but the MV Land Bank was considered to be a good model.

S. Manter motioned to add the following to the April ballot as a non-binding question: Are you in favor of establishing a regional housing bank, to address the critical housing needs on the Vineyard? C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Vineyard Transit Authority Stakeholders Group: Jen said she had spoken with Angie Grant after her presentation about the electric bus project about the proposal for a stakeholders group to examine the proposed project. She said Angie had suggested a member of the Board of Selectmen, a member of the Planning Board, a member of the Energy Committee and a member at large. Richard volunteered to represent the Selectmen. Jen will reach out to the other boards.

Letter of Non-Opposition for a Registered Marijuana Dispensary (RMD) at 90 Dr. Fisher Road:

Geoff Rose asked the Board for a new letter of non-opposition because he was proposing to move his RMD from State Rd to Dr. Fisher Road. The State Department of Public Health (DPH) requires new letters if the proposed location changes. He said the provisional license he holds requires an independent testing lab for his products, and because of federal laws prohibiting the transport of marijuana over federal waters he needed more room to build a lab than he would have at the original State Road location. Cindy asked if this was a residential area even though zoned as light industrial. Geoff said he didn't know if there were houses nearby. He said that he abuts a lot used by ABC Refuse and another commercial lot leased by Mr. Larkosh. Skipper noted at this time that he would not participate in the conversation because he has a family member that is an abutter. Susan Wasserman noted that traffic would be an issue on the unimproved road. Matt D'Andrea said he was concerned about the proximity to the WT School. He feared it would send the wrong message to the students. Karl Nelson said he was a science teacher at the school, he said that RMD's frequently turn into retail spaces once the laws allow for them. Doug Ruskin said he was on the Board of Directors for the RMD, he noted that in order to access the RMD you would need a prescription card and be over the age of 18. He said in order to open a retail facility you had to undergo an entirely different application process. Theresa Manning also stated her concern about the proximity to the school. Geoff said it was outside the State specified 1,000 foot radius. In response to the traffic concerns he said he

had a public hearing with the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) the following night. Richard asked if he looked at any other locations. Geoff said no. Cindy said she would prefer to wait until the ZBA had taken action. She said as a Selectperson she was having a hard time signing a letter of non-opposition prior to the public hearing for the project due to the number of people who had turned up at the meeting to state their opposition to this location. Richard said he would have a hard time signing a letter of non-opposition against the wishes of the School Superintendent. The Board took no action.

Lease Vehicle Payout Schedule: Jen explained the lease payout schedule as provided by the vendor. She said based on that information she felt comfortable with the lease going forward. She noted that the grant would cover the first 22 months of the lease, so the Board could put an article on the 2018 town meeting warrant to cover the last months of the lease. She said she was working to confirm that she had enough money to cover the cost of the chargers & installation. The grant for the chargers was \$10,500, based on cost estimates for the chargers and the conduit installation groundwork she only had about \$1k left for the remaining electrical work. Richard noted that the Selectmen had money in their discretionary fund that could be used to supplement the funds.

C. Mitchell motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to go forward with the lease provided there were sufficient funds to cover the cost of installation. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.