

Approved 2/22/17
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, February 8, 2017 4:30 p.m. – 5:52 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Cynthia Mitchell, Skipper Manter, Jennifer Rand

Also Present: Kathy Logue, Angie Grant, Geoff Rose, Nancy Dole, Bea Phear, Nathan Davies, Mike Colaneri, Joan Ames, Nicole Galland, Heather Hamacek

Vineyard Transit (VTA) Electric Bus Project: Angie Grant, Manager of the VTA gave the Board a presentation about electric busses, she said the VTA is pursuing grants to transition the entire fleet to electric over the next few years. (presentation attached). She noted that diesel engines are less reliable than the electric, so the maintenance costs will be less. Angie said the change to an electric fleet would require charging stations along the route; the busses generally run for about 150-175 miles, the bus routes can keep the busses on the road for 300 miles in a day. The charging stations in West Tisbury would require a 8'x8'x20' container that would hold a battery storage system and plates in the ground that the busses would drive onto for charging. She noted that the battery storage could act as a back-up generator in emergencies. Skipper asked if the VTA got the grants when would the project begin. Angie said spring 2018. Cindy asked what the VTA's success rate was for grants. Angie said they get many grants now so she was optimistic they would be successful in getting this one. Angie said she wanted to form a stakeholder's to work on the project in town to look at what best would work in West Tisbury.

Letter of Non-Opposition for Registered Marijuana Dispensary (RMD): Geoff Rose asked the Board for a new letter because he has found a site he feels is better suited for the RMD than the original. The new location is on Dr. Fisher Road. Skipper noted that he had a conflict because one of his family members is an abutter. The Board postponed any action until February 22, when they would have a full Board present again.

Financial Management Team (FMT) re: budget and warrant: Jen said the FMT had met, and after looking at the financial picture for FY '18 determined that the best course of action was for an override vote at the annual town election. She said that the Town has been closing in on this need for a while now and if there was not an override this year there would certainly need to be one next year. She noted that the amount needed for an override was within \$7 of the request for OPEB funding from the Up-Island Regional School District. She said the FMT felt this was an appropriate override request because in the years to follow this OPEB funding would be in the budget and would be outside the control of the town. Cindy noted that the Finance Committee has stated their resistance to an override. Skipper said he thought the OPEB funding request was a liability that must be funded so should not be on a ballot because voters may not understand the need. He said he would prefer to target specific budgets.

Jen then asked the Board to take action to remove the water tank funding article from this year's warrant. She said she had spoken with the Fire Chief who said he would be comfortable with the affordable housing project being constructed prior to the installation provided he had a letter stating it would not be occupied until the tank was in.

C. Mitchell motioned to remove the water tank funding article from the warrant. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

The Board then discussed the #122 Selectmen's budget. Jen said she had asked the Assessors to reduce their expenses by \$3,000, which they had proposed as a "car stipend". She said she then added that amount to the #122 budget to pay the insurance on the lease vehicles anticipated to be in place soon. Skipper asked if the #122 budget could pay for the Byways Pamphlet proposed for next year's Planning Board budget. Jen said she could work that out with their Administrator. Bea thought that was fine. Skipper asked if the "discretionary" line in that budget could be reduced by \$1k. Cindy said there was no basis for that reduction. Jen expressed concern that the discretionary line was for things that truly were unforeseen.

Skipper asked if the legal line could be dropped by \$5k because it hadn't all been spent in the past few years. Cindy noted the line was such a guess anyways that it could be reduced and then the Board could ask for a transfer if needed. She asked if it could be reduced by \$10k. Jen said there was no reason not to provided everyone knew she might need a transfer if the town had a lawsuit.

C. Mitchell motioned to reduce the legal line to \$40,000. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Skipper then said he wanted to ask again to increase the Highway Superintendent's stipend by \$5k. Cindy said that while the Superintendent did an amazing job that question had been discussed at length and decided the week prior.

Childcare at Town Meeting: Jen said that she had begun to investigate how other towns handle childcare at town meetings. She said of all the towns she heard from only one had offered child care, and it was through a local child care agency. She said other towns said they had discussed having high school students offer the service but never followed through. Cindy said she thought it was worth exploring; perhaps Jen should reach out to Community Service and see if they could offer the service. Nancy said the issue came up at a forum on how to increase citizen involvement so she thought the Board should look at the larger picture of why parents don't come, perhaps the meetings should end at a specific earlier time as one example.

Friends of the WT Library Donation: *C. Mitchell motioned to accept with gratitude the donation from the Friends of \$4,746.75 to cover expenses for the copier and the summer reading program. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Re-Use Committee for Old Courthouse Road Building: *C. Mitchell motioned to appoint Bea Phear, Scott Young, Susan Silk and Vickie Thurber to the committee. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG): *C. Mitchell motioned to participate in the CDBG program with Edgartown. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Extended Deer Hunt: Skipper said he had asked that the item be on the agenda again so the Board could vote to have the hunting season extension sunset in 5 years. Recent votes in other towns now have made that unnecessary as the town now will be voting to endorse a hearing to determine if the season should be extended and how.

C. Mitchell motioned to send a letter endorsing the hearing regarding an extended hunting season.. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.