

Approved 6/15/16
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
JOINT SELECTMENS MEETING
Chilmark, Aquinnah & West Tisbury
Wednesday, May 31, 2016 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Richard Knabel, Skipper Manter, Cindy Mitchell, Jennifer Rand Jim Newman, Julie Vanderhoop, Gary Haley, Adam Wilson, Bill Rossi, Warren Doty, Amy Tierney, Matt D'Andrea, Susan & Lynn Murphy, Sam Hart, Doug Ruskin, Chuck Hodgekinson, Judy Flanders, Mark Lovewell, Edie Prescott, Heather Hamacek, Susan Silk, Robert Lionette

Richard began the meeting with a few factual corrections to the report issued by the WT Board of Selectmen's School Study Task Force. Bill Rossi, Selectman from Chilmark said they were just here to listen, he asked if WT had a proposal for a change to the formula. Julie Vanderhoop, Selectman from Aquinnah said she was concerned that Aquinnah children not lose the option of which school they attend. Richard stated there was no discussion about closing the Chilmark School. Cindy said she thought it significant that the Task Force had members from all three towns and they all agreed that the formula should be changed. It was noted that Wenonah does not live in Aquinnah. Bill said that the Selectmen in Chilmark did not get any input from the Chilmark Task Force member. He said Chilmark needed to have the financial analysis done by their own independent people. Cindy suggested that Bruce Stone, WT Town Accountant present to all the Selectmen how he came up with his results. He has a lot of data that was not included in the report. Robert said that Bruce had consistently said that much of the analysis is beyond what he was qualified to do. Amy Tierney from the School Superintendent's Office said she completely agreed with Bruce's analysis. Warren Doty, Chilmark Selectman said he did not appreciate the implication that the Chilmark School is the problem. Cindy said she agreed that perhaps having WT develop a proposal for everyone to react to was a good starting point. Superintendent D'Andrea said it was important that first everyone understand the formula that was in use before any suggestions for change. Susan Murphy said that before there was a district there were two schools and everyone understood that Chilmark was expensive to run. She said Chilmark will keep running their school and they don't want to be on the defensive about it any more. Bill suggested that the Boards meet again in the fall. Skipper said that was too late, by then budgets will be well under way. Cindy said she thought they should proceed on two tracks 1) get everyone all the data Bruce worked from and his complete analysis and 2) WT develop a proposal for everyone to react to.