

Approved 4/20/16
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, April 6, 2016 4:30 p.m. – 5:10 p.m.

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

Also Present: Susan Silk, Edie Prescott, Heather Hamacek

Minutes: *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 3/23/16. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was SM & CM in favor RK abstained.*

Windemere Auction Event Permit: *S. Manter motioned to approve the request for an event permit for the Windemere Auction at the Grange Hall on 06/03/16. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Highway Debt Ballot Question: *R. Knabel motioned to place a debt exclusion ballot question on the town election ballot on April 14, 2016. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Planning Board Access to Counsel: Jen explained that she has spoken with the Planning Board Administrator, Jane Rossi, about their request for Counsel. Jane said they would withdraw the request for now as she and Jen were able to work out what they felt the answer was regarding the Open Space bylaw. Jen said if the Planning Board did still have questions they would return to the Selectmen with a more specific question to address.

Eversource Grid Modernization Plan Letter: *R. Knabel motioned to send a letter to the Department of Public Utilities asking for more time to comment on the plan. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Commission on Disability: Jen said she had spoken with the MA Office on Disabilities (MOD) regarding their request to the town to form a Commission. She said she felt that it made little sense for each of the Island towns to have such a Commission, and thought perhaps it would be a good regional function. The MOD said there was no language in the legislation that would allow it to be done regionally, but Jen asked if perhaps it could be done informally at least. Cindy said she thought there might be someone at the County who already serves this function. Richard noted that legislation could be filed allowing for a regional Commission. Jen will reach out to the other towns and the County to get their thoughts.

School District Task Force Final Report: Skipper went through the report and made a number of comments. He noted on page 1 that the plan had been for a user fee to cover capital costs if there were no district. On page 3 he noted the district had never received 100% reimbursement. On page 3 he noted there had been a non-binding ballot question to ask if WT should get out of the District which passed. On page 6 he noted that the District no longer buys busses so there is no benefit any longer. He then said that the list of advantages to not being in a district should not include a line item veto on the budget as the school budget has always, even prior to the formation of the District presented the entire budget as one line to the town meeting for a vote. He did note that if not in the District revenue received by the School would come to the town and be subject to spending approval. Susan and Richard asked that Skipper send his comments to them so they can be reviewed and a decision can be made as to whether to amend the report. Skipper then said he would like the conversation with the other towns to include a conversation about identifying fixed costs and removing them from the per pupil formula. Cindy said she

would prefer not to jump ahead, but rather begin the conversation as a group. Susan said that Chilmark will want to know what West Tisbury wants. Cindy said she would prefer to get there as a group but assumed it would be somewhere between the minimum and maximum savings to West Tisbury identified in the report.