

Approved 1/17/24
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 4:30 pm
At the Town Hall and via Zoom

Present: Select Persons Cynthia Mitchell, Jessica Miller, Skipper Manter and Town Administrator Jen Rand

Also present or on Zoom for part or all of the meeting: Kate Warner, Bea Phear, Sheila Morse, Alexandra Pratt, Laura Silber, Emily Fisher, Leah Smith, Tara Whiting-Wells, Bernadette Lyons, Thomas Humphrey and Abigail Rosen.

Skipper called the Select Board meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Minutes:

- **January 3, 2024:** Skipper and Jessica both had small corrections which will be fixed.

Jessica moved to approve the Minutes of January 3, 2024 as amended. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

New Business:

- **Laura Silber Re; written testimony for the Jan 18, 2024 hearing in the Joint Committee on Housing in support of the Affordable Homes Act, highlighting the provisions on the Transfer Fee and Seasonal Communities Designation:**

Laura spoke about the Affordable Homes Act that the state is proposing and the involvement of the MV Commission. They are looking for written testimony for the hearing January 18th. She shared the template and explained some of the highpoints. She also said that the Housing Bank Coalition has created a quick link on their webpage for personal testimony.

Laura also mentioned that the MVC having an event on Thursday night with Julian Cyr and others from the state regarding affordable housing and other issues.

Cindy moved to endorse the letter as requested and authorized the Town Administrator to sign it on their behalf. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Short Term Rental Bylaw:**

Bea spoke about the new draft of the bylaw and the changes they had made based on public input. They are also recommending it be a town bylaw rather than a zoning bylaw. She is requesting they put it on the warrant as a Select Board article. She went on to hit the highlights of the proposed bylaw. Skipper had some points that he wanted the committee to rethink. Discussion followed about definitions, exemptions, enforcement and the effective date. The board agreed to it being a general bylaw not a zoning bylaw and that the fine will

be set at \$300. The bylaw will go into effect on 1/1/25. Bea said they will make the changes suggested and have the final draft to Jen for the warrant by the deadline. They were thanked for their work.

- **Energy Committee Bylaw:**

The Energy Committee is proposing an article for Annual Town Meeting (ATM) to add to the Stretch Code to create a Specialized Code which will be a prerequisite of being part of the next phase of Green Communities. Kate presented a PowerPoint with info about the request. The board thought it was a great presentation and are looking forward to the discussion at ATM. They agreed to put in on the warrant and asked her to create an abbreviated version of her presentation as a handout for ATM, or perhaps a FAQ sheet. Jen suggested they post the PowerPoint on the town website and FaceBook page.

- **Registrar Appointment – Jonathan Klaren:**

Tara explained that with Tony Rezendes passing she needs a new registrar. It would be for a 2 year term to fill out Tony's term.

Cindy moved to appoint Jonathan Klaren as Registrar for a term of 2 years. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Vote to Reduce the Hours of In Person Early Voting to 8:00 am – 11:00 am:**

Tara also spoke to this item. She explained how early in-person voting usually worked and said because she isn't doing it from her office she needs to reduce the time to accommodate her traveling back and forth from the Public Safety Building and still have some time to work in her office. It would be a reduction from 5 to 3 hours.

Cindy moved to Reduce the Hours of In Person Early Voting to 8:00 am – 11:00 am as requested. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Discussion and Vote to Award Library HVAC Owner's Project Manager contract to ACG:**

Jen said that ACG were the only ones who bid on the project. She added that the project funding at town meeting last year did not include the cost of the OPM or the Commissioning agent so there will be a warrant article for those two pieces of the project. Skipper asked about contingency and they discussed adding money just in case as they do not yet know what the total project will cost. Emily asked about having someone else look at the plans and Jen explained how ACG will have an outside expert of their own and it might be too much to involve another party. Emily was OK with that.

Cindy moved to award the Library HVAC Owner's Project Manager contract to ACG. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Reserve Fund Transfer for Annual Town Meeting Sound – Vote to Approve:**

Jen said that for many years Ernie had only charged them \$ 400. for providing the sound equipment for ATM Now that he has retired, the new person is charging more which is closer to the going rate. She has upped her future budgets, but this money (\$ 3,900.) is needed to

cover 2024 as that budget was already set. The Finance Committee has already approved the transfer.

Cindy moved to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer for Annual Town Meeting sound of \$ 3,900. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Topics Not Anticipated:

- Skipper shared with the board about the discussion at the Personnel Board meeting regarding the multi-board/IT position and how they were reluctant to grade it. Jen will be at the next meeting to help clarify the position and Skipper encouraged the board to attend in support.
- Skipper also recapped the trouble with the Affordable Housing Trust meeting the previous evening and their discussion. They also discussed the Affordable Housing Committee and how they have not yet submitted their budget. The Select Board has decided that if they do not get the budget in next week they will take over and submit one. They went on to discuss the way the committee is being run and how something needs to be done about it. Jessica has volunteered to become an associate member of the committee to help sort stuff out. The AHC has also agreed to appoint Kim Angell as a new associate member. The board decided that they needed to discuss the whole thing more and will put the topic on a next week's agenda. Jen will let the members AHC know to come and be part of the discussion.

Old Business: There was none.

Correspondence: There was none.

Public Comment: There was none.

With no further business to discuss, Cindy moved adjourn the meeting. Skipper seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 6:05 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant