

Approved 1/29/20
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, January 15, 2020 4:30 p.m. –5:54 pm

Present: Selectmen Skipper Manter, Kent Healy, Cindy Mitchell, Jen Rand

Also Present: Geoff Rose, John Alley, Lauren Thomas, Elaine Miller, Prudy Burt, Donna Lowell-Bettencourt, Michael Colaneri, Lucas Thors

Vineyard Transit (VTA) Funding Request: Elaine explained that the Town was being asked for roughly \$92,000 to help restore full winter service next winter. She said that the budget impacts of the strike, easy access to ridesharing, the increase in the cost of insurance, and increase in rent and a drop in ridership have all impacted the budget and the VTA's ability to provide the same high level of service it used to provide. She said that rider fares had been increased last year, but if they raise the rates too much then they will price themselves out of ridership entirely. John said it's been 15 years since the VTA has asked the towns for money. Elaine also noted that the drop in ridership impacts the financial support given by the state. Jen asked if the state takes into account the seasonal nature of ridership when looking at the total numbers of riders. Lauren said they are working with the state to have that taken into account. Skipper asked if there were changes in the overall budget to take into account the decreased riders, which he assumed meant less need for administrative staff. Elaine said the opposite was true. The VTA administration is as busy as they have ever been trying to deal with less revenue, changes in route schedules, the electric bus program and more. Cindy asked for the status of the electric bus program. Lauren said about 30% of the busses are electric now in 9-10 years all will be. Cindy said there is a robust movement towards electric vehicles due to concerns about climate change, she suggested the VTA partner with the Island Climate Change network to try and increase ridership. The Board will put an article on the warrant asking for funding.

School Zone Blinking Speed Sign: Donna said that after a car had hit the school zone sign the school had replaced it with a flashing speed limit sign. She had been under the impression that the town would pay to replace the sign going the other way with a similar sign. Skipper said he thought it was a school department expense. Cindy said she agreed but thought it needed to be done. A placeholder article will be put on the warrant while responsibility is determined.

Medical Marijuana Host Agreement 2020: *K. Healy motioned to sign the 2020 host agreement with no changes from 2019. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Tiah's Cove Rd Culvert: Jen said the bids had come in; the low bid was roughly \$82,000. She asked if the Board wanted to ask the voters for funding, or wait until there were grant funds available. Kent said there was no emergency and he didn't think it was necessary to do this project right now. Prudy said the culvert was identified in 2012 as

needing repair and was identified again in the Municipal Vulnerability Program. Cindy said that the voters understood when they voted for the engineering money that the next step would be to complete the project. The article will go on the warrant but if grant funds are made available the money will not be spent.

Committee to Preserve West Tisbury: Skipper said he didn't know what the committee charge was, and wasn't comfortable with the name. Jen said the Planning Board had asked for this appointment, she didn't think the name of the committee mattered that much, she understood they were looking to create a housing size limitation bylaw. Cindy said that citizens should be encouraged to create committees to work on things they felt were important. *C. Mitchell motioned to appoint Harriet Bernstein, Ivory Littlefield, Paul Rashba, Bruce McNelley, Heikki Soikkeli, Samantha Look, Amy Upton (Planning Board Liaison), Reid Silva & Whit Griswold (Associate Members) to Preserve West Tisbury. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Selectmen & Cemetery Annual Reports: Cindy said she thought Janice had done an excellent job on the Selectmen's report. *K. Healy motioned to approve the two annual reports. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Howes House Space Needs Study: Jen said that the Space Needs Committee had submitted a report on their findings; she noted that they had omitted a need for a generator. In their report they had a list of short term needs and longer term. She asked the Board how they wished to proceed. The Board said the next step would be to ask the voters for \$10,000 for a feasibility study for the building. Jen will put an article on the warrant for town meeting.

School Bus Lease: Jen said the School Superintendent had sent a notice that there will be a vote to lease busses in March. The Town will then have the option to hold a town meeting to vote in support. The Board told Jen just to put an article on the warrant now in anticipation.

Local Drop-Off: Jen explained that Kent had given her a copy of the Refuse District Agreement which appears to say that the District, not the Town, is responsible for the control of the facility, including the cost of capital repairs. She noted that also meant they are responsible for determining the status of the drop-off and if it remains open. She said she had spoken to the District Manager about all these things, and it is up for discussion at their meeting next week. Cindy said it was clear we still would need to give voters a chance to weigh in on keeping the Drop-Off open or not.