

Approved 1/31/24
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 24, 2024 4:30 pm
At the Town Hall and via Zoom

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

Also present or on Zoom for part or all of the meeting: John Christensen, Kate Guiney, Bruce Stone, Marissa Jackson, Kathy Logue, Jeffrey Dubard, Eunki Seonwoo, Thomas Humphrey, Janice Haynes and other members of the public that did not speak.

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

Minutes:

- **January 17, 2024:** There were no changes or additions offered.

Jessica moved to approve the Minutes of January 17, 2024. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

New Business:

- **Energy Committee Admin Appointment – Kate Guiney:**

John introduced Kate and she said hello. She was welcomed.

Cindy moved to appoint Kate Guiney as the Administrative Assistant to the Energy Committee. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Public Safety Building Space Needs Committee Appointment (Pat Mitchell, Ben Retmier and Alex Lam) and approval of Committee Charge:**

Jen read the charge they had come up with and mentioned the above names as members for the committee. It was decided to set the date of completion as June 1, 2024. The charge was as follows:

Public Safety Building Space Needs Committee Charge

1. *Need for space to house EMTs and/or firefighters overnight – at least two different spaces for different genders*
2. *Need for repair/replacement of the apparatus bay exhaust system(s) in compliance with OSHA requirements – explore grant funding*
3. *Need to replace the furnace for the apparatus bay (and backup to heat pump for whole fire part of building) within two years*
4. *Improve the resilience of the public safety building and vehicles*

1. *Solar panels on the roof (may require a new roof first) and battery storage located on site.*
2. *Installing Level 2 or a Level 3 chargers adjacent to the building for use by future electric and/or hybrid public safety vehicles*
5. *Report back to the Select Board by 6/1/24 with a set of recommendations and a timeline to solve these needs*

Jessica moved to adopt the charge as presented. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Jessica also moved to appoint Pat Mitchell, Ben Retmier and Alex Lam to the Public Safety Building Space Needs Committee. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Review of FY 25 Budget Picture and anticipated Warrant Articles:**

Bruce explained the projected tax levy and said that with all of the warrant articles they knew of so far and using free cash that taxes would be up about 10%. They discussed using an override as the amount we will be short is over the 2.5 %. He mentioned that the 2 biggest items will be the Tri-Town assessment for West Tisbury's share of the debt for the new building and the school budgets. Jen shared a list of the money related warrant article so far, but said it is not complete as the closing date is February 6th. Bruce suggested they attach the override to specific articles or lines in the budget. There was no decision made tonight, but the board was glad for the heads up and they will wait to see what else comes in. They also spoke about debt exclusion and a possible ballot question regarding the Library HVAC project and OPM.

Regarding warrant articles, Jen asked about the Old Court House Rd paving and whether it needs to be voted on at Annual Town Meeting as the folks who live on the road didn't want it done 10 years ago. We have Chapter 90 money available so it wouldn't cost the taxpayers anything. They believe it would be a risk and liability to not pave it as it's in such bad shape now. They will think about it and discuss again next week.

Another article is proposing to change the wording to reduce the quorum for town meetings to 75 people rather than 5%. We have been having trouble getting a quorum in the past so it needs to be lower. Jessica has concerns about reducing and 'letting people off the hook' and thinks they should look for ways to increase voter turnout instead. They asked Jen to look into what other island towns have for their quorum and will discuss again next week.

- **Fence along town lot on Dr. Fisher:**

Jen feels the only way to remedy the encroachment is to put up a split rail fence. She has gotten a rough quote of \$15,000. Skipper thinks it's too much money when the budget is already stretched. Jessica also had concerns about setting a precedent. It was decided to wait for now.

- **Non-Binding Ballot Question re: Turf Field at High School.**

Item was pushed until next week.

Topics Not Anticipated: There were none.

Old Business:

- **Eversource Easement – WT School for EV Charger Hook up:**

Marissa from Eversource said that the plan would need to be re-engineered to go under the road and the estimated cost would be about \$ 20,000. or more. They would pay for the cost to run the wires overhead but the town would be responsible for the rest. Jen said that we have \$15,000 uncommitted from this project that could be used, and if more money was needed it could be gotten from the reserve fund. Marissa says there is still a time issue to get the transformers, but if we are not in a rush it can be done. Jen asked about losing the funding from the Makeready program because we've already asked for one extension. Marissa will ask about that

Jessica moved to pursue the under- road option for the electric wires. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Multi-Board Job Description: Slight Re-Write Review:**

They have made some changes to clarify and give more specificity on the position for the Personnel board. Kathy elaborated a bit on some of the changes. They have also added a few things gleaned from job descriptions from other towns. The board thanked Jen, Kathy and Kim for all the work they have done on this.

Cindy moved to approve the new version of the Multi-board job description. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Stoney Hill Lots:**

The road association contacted Jen and said they were not ready to make a decision yet and they would not be meeting again until May. Jen said she was anticipating a letter from them with questions. She would forward that to the Affordable Housing Commission in the hopes the town can at least answer some of their questions and concerns. Jen doesn't feel that they are close to a yes answer, but wants to keep trying as it's not yet a hard no.

Correspondence: There was none.

Public Comment: There were none.

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

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:20 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Janice Haynes
Administrative Assistant*