

DRAFT
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, January 30, 2019 4:30 p.m. – 5:10 pm

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

Also Present: Bruce Stone, Doug Ruskin, Richard Saltzberg

Minutes: *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 1/16/19. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Welles House: Skipper said he thought the Board should consider putting an article on the warrant to give them the authority to dispose of the Welles House in November if the Town still owns it. He said if they had a special town meeting at that time and couldn't get a quorum the town would have to hold on to the house until the Annual Town Meeting the following April. Jen said that she had a number of concerns about this approach and noted that the previous owners seem to be moving towards a resolution to regain ownership of the house. Cindy said she thought this was premature, there was a process and it was not yet complete. Kent agreed it was not the right time to do this.

Short Term Rental Tax Warrant Articles: Bruce presented the draft articles that would allow voters to adopt the short term rental tax, allow the creation of a stabilization fund and set up two funds, one for road work and one for vehicle purchase. Cindy asked if the stabilization fund could not be specified for a particular purchase. Bruce said yes, but in effect that was already true because the voters can change the specified purpose when they vote the funds out. He noted the town has a general purpose fund with about \$500,000 that it never touches; it is reserved for real emergencies. Bruce noted the two proposed funds are consistent with needs identified by the Capital Improvements Committee, and that the purpose could be changed on the floor at town meeting. Skipper proposed that 30% go into each proposed stabilization fund with the remaining 40% into the general fund.

S. Manter motioned to place the proposed articles on the warrant as described. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Airport Expansion Letter: *S. Manter motioned to authorize the Chair to sign a letter to the Airport Commission regarding public input on expansion plans. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Housing Bank: Doug asked the Board if they would consider supporting the Housing Bank article. Skipper said he had concerns about the disparity on contributions from different towns, and the fact that the Board members would be elected not appointed thus reducing accountability to the towns. Doug noted that the town's Housing Committees would have final say on projects in their town.