

Approved 2/14/24
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, January 31, 2024 4:30 pm
At the Town Hall and via Zoom

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

Also present or on Zoom for all or part of the meeting: Jeffrey Dubard, Eunki Seonwoo, Ethan Genter, Kim Angel, Matt Gebo, Janice Haynes.

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

Minutes:

• **January 24, 2024:**

Skipper asked to add the charge for the Public Safety Building Space Needs Committee to the final minutes, otherwise there were no corrections.

Jessica moved to approve the Minutes of January 24, 2024 as amended. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

New Business:

• **“Big Night Out” Event Permit & 1 Day Beer & Wine 2/3/24 Grange 6-9 pm:**

Jen explained that they did not submit late; the application was submitted in December and fell through the cracks while waiting on a paperwork. All the sign-offs have been done. Skipper requested they take two votes.

Jessica moved to approve the “Big Night Out” Event Permit. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Cindy moved to appoint a 1 Day beer and Wine permit for the “Big Night Out” Event. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: Cindy and Jessica in favor, Skipper abstained as he believes it is not permissible under the present zoning bylaws. (2-0-1)

• **Contra Dance Event Permit Grange, 2/10/24 6:30-8:30 pm:**

All the sign-offs have been done. Jen asked if this event, like other re-occurring events, could be approved this once and then allowed in the future with her signing off on it rather than coming back to the board each time. Jessica thought that would be fine as long it was only in the off season. Jen will notify the board when they do have events that she signs off on.

Jessica moved to approve the Contra Dance Event Permit at the Grange, 2/10/24 6:30-8:30 pm and to allow the Town Administrator to sign off on their future off-season events. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

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

The school has decided they would like to ask the voters to weigh in on the topic. They are asking all the towns. Jen mentioned that the article will need a few tweaks to make it legally correct.

Jessica moved to place the question on the ballot for Annual Town Election. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Topics Not Anticipated:

- Jen mentioned that the town had gotten a grant for cyber security training. We did it a few years ago. It will all be online and will not cost the town anything.

Old Business:

- **Town Accountant Selection Process:**

The deadline has passed and there are 3 applicants. They need to pick a date for interviews. Cindy suggested scripted questions and it was decided to have Kathy, Bruce and Jen come up with them. They picked the date of February 21st to give time for the group to come up with the questions. There will be nothing else on the agenda that day if possible. The interviews will be public and done by a hybrid meeting though the applicants will need to be in person.

- **Quorum Article (Edg 5%, AQ 10%, Chilmark 25, OB 50, Tisbury 100):**

Jen gathered the info on what the other island towns have for a quorum as stated above. Skipper read Doug Ruskin's letter into the record; he does not support reducing the quorum and states his reasons and gives some suggestions on outreach. Jessica and Cindy are both against lowering the quorum. Skipper suggested doing both, more outreach and lowering. They discussed ways of getting everyone's emails and Jen pointed out that the CodeRed system is only for emergencies. After discussion they decided not to lower the quorum at this point and to work more on outreach.

- **Old Courthouse Rd Paving**

This is a return to the discussion started last week. Because we have the Chapter 90 money available, it does not need to go to ATM for approval. Cindy doesn't feel that the voters should have the option to decide as they won't have to pay for it and the road is unsafe. The town has a responsibility to make it safe. It was decided to go ahead with the repaving and reach out to the Old Courthouse Rd residents to let them know it will be happening.

Correspondence:

- **Stoney Hill Assoc. Re: Land Purchase:**

The road association has a lot of questions and Jen is concerned that they simply cannot answer all of them ahead of time, such as what the buildings would look like. It would be

irresponsible for the town to spend money to design homes before they even have the land to build on. She is beginning to feel that this is insurmountable to achieve. The road association said that they are tabling the topic until their annual meeting in May and Cindy suggested we give them what we can now without spending too much time on it, and then wait till they meet. Jeffrey said that the Affordable Housing Committee will give any help or answers they can and mentioned that they usually value homesite lots at \$80,000. But Jen pointed out that these lots were much smaller.

- **WTPD re: Officer of the Year:**

Skipper read the announcement of Det. Nikolaj Wojtkielo as the 2023 Police Officer of the Year. The board congratulated him.

- **D. Ruskin Re: quorum:**

Already read in earlier discussion.

- **J. Albertine Retirement Letter:**

Joyce will be retiring on May 17th. She was praised and thanked for her 37+ years. The board will send a letter or card.

Cindy moved to accept Joyce Albertine's retirement letter. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

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 5:17 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Janice Haynes
Administrative Assistant*