

Approved 10/18/23
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, October 4, 2023 4:30 pm
At the WT Town Hall and via Zoom

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

Also present or on Zoom for part or all of the meeting: Greg Pachico, Tara Whiting-Wells, Laura Silber, Beth Kramer, Bernadette Lyons, Jenny Gadowski, Bethany Hammond, Jeffrey Dubard, Kim Angell, Eunkie Seonwoo, Thomas Humphrey Janice Haynes.

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

Minutes: Vote to approve – September 20, 2023:

There were no edits or corrections offered.

Cindy moved to approve the Minutes of October 4, 2023. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

New Business:

- **WTFD re: Hydrant Grants:**

Greg explained that all of the island towns got together with the MV Commission to create a fire plan. It enables them to now apply for grants. They have identified locations in town for hydrants. One is off Tia's Cove Rd and is already designated a hydrant lot. The other location is on the WT/VH line that they will share with Vineyard Haven. The grant would pay for 75% of the installation and the town would be responsible for the other 25%. West Tisbury and Vineyard Haven would split the 25% for the shared hydrant. They would have an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant for the remaining money. He is asking for letters of support and an intermunicipal agreement for the grants to be signed by the board.

Jessica moved to sign the letters of agreement and the intermunicipal agreement for the hydrant grant(s). Skipper seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor

- **Housing Bank Bills:**

- **H2747 - Connolly -Transfer Fee** <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H2747>
- **S1771– Comerford- Transfer Fee** <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/S1771>
- **H2788 – Fernandes- Transfer Fee/ “Mansion Fee”**
<https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/H2788>
- **S1786 Cyr -- An Act Relative to a Local Option Real Estate Transfer Fee to Create and Preserve Housing** <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/193/S1786>:

Laura Silber explained the request. The hearing will be next week, October 11th. Laura had a letter template that Jen was able to sign after the vote. She will submit it by email tomorrow.

Cindy moved to authorize the Town Administrator and town advisory boards to submit testimony to the state legislature and Governor's administration, as needed, in support of An Act Establishing the MV Housing Bank, and related transfer fee enabling bills as listed above. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.

- **MVC Complete Neighborhoods – Laura Silber:**

Laura also spoke about the grant and requested a formal letter from the board stating interest in being included in the consideration. Laura had another letter that the board was able to sign after the vote.

Jessica moved to sign a letter of intent for the Complete Neighborhoods grant. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.

- **Staffing for Low Hour Positions:**

Jen has been speaking with other boards and departments and has determined that they are not getting applicants for these low-hour, unbenefited positions. She explained how it might work to have one person who works for multiple departments. The first step would be to create a job description and she will ask Maria in the Personnel department to investigate if other towns do something similar rather than re-creating the wheel. All agreed that it was a good idea to pursue. No action taken.

- **Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles: Fire Chief 10% Adjustment, Any others not yet discussed:**

Jen explained why the article for the Fire Chief was needed; his contract did not have the increase included. It will be amended for the future. There is another article for the Town Clerk as she is elected she doesn't fall under the personnel bylaws and did not receive the 10% increase either. The board decided to combine the 2 articles. Jen believes the draft warrant is complete; she is unaware of any other articles pending. It will be sent to counsel. No action taken.

Topics Not Anticipated:

- Skipper said he had spoken to counsel who is having trouble getting in touch with the interim chair of the Affordable Housing Committee. Jeffrey had left the meeting by then so was unavailable for comment. Counsel also did not get an invite to the Affordable Housing Trust meeting. Skipper is concerned that the ADU documents may not be ready for the STM. After discussion they decided to wait until after the Trust meets for more info.

Old Business:

- **Council on Aging Board Interviews and Possible Appointment:**

They had decided to put off the interviews until next meeting so as to be able to have the current COA board members present. They discussed the process for next week as there are 2 interested people who may not be able to make the meeting next Wednesday, and the interview process in general. After discussion Cindy offered to email the interviewees with a short list of items they will be asking about. They will come up with another date for the interviews for the remaining people and decide by the 18th. No action taken.

Correspondence:

- **Nancy Cabot Letter re: COA Board:** Cindy asked Skipper to apologize to Nancy for the way she found out about the COA board.
- **Planning Board to Radio Farm re: Curb Cut:** FYI
- **The Beacon:** emailed to the board.

Public Comment: There was none.

With no further business Cindy moved to adjourn. Jessica seconded. Roll Call vote: All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:46 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Janice Haynes,
Administrative Assistant*