

Approved 12/5/18
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, November 14, 2018 4:30 p.m. – 5:52 pm

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

Also Present: Matt Mincone, Philip Hollinger, Michael Colaneri, Maria McFarland, Dawn Barnes, Phyllis Meras, Richie Olsen, Berta Geller, Holly Pretsky, Richard Saltzberg

WTPD Appointment: Matt said that the interview process was complete and he wanted the Board to appoint Philip Hollinger to the position of Patrolman.

K. Healy motioned to appoint Philip Hollinger to the position of Patrolman. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was KH & CM in favor SM abstained.

Tax Hearing: Dawn Barnes, Principal Assessor, presented the Board with information about the tax options. The full presentation is attached. Michael said the Board of Assessors voted to ask the Selectmen to hold one or more hearings over the summer to determine if the residents supported an exemption that would shift some of the tax burden to the seasonal property owners. Kent asked how the residency is determined. Dawn said the Assessing Department uses the town census and tax returns to confirm during the application process. Kent asked if there was an appeal process, Dawn said yes, it is the same as any other assessing appeal. Cindy asked what the timing would need to be for the public hearings to allow the Assessing Department to prepare if the Selectmen determined they were ready to make a change. Dawn said it would be good to have the hearings in the spring and summer so by fall it was somewhat clear that a change might be coming.

S. Manter motioned to maintain a single tax rate. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

S. Manter motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to electronically sign the recap documents on the Board's behalf. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Minutes: *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 10/31/18. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Library Access to Counsel: *S. Manter motioned to authorize the library for access to counsel for CLAMS contract review. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Complete Streets Access to Counsel: Berta asked the Board for permission to speak to Counsel about liability for road association owners on Great Plains if improvements were made at the end of the road to facilitate passage by pedestrians and cyclists into the State Forest. Jen explained that she was not sure Counsel was needed so she was asking for access but may not actually use it. Skipper said he didn't think it was necessary to speak with Counsel. He asked that the research be completed to determine if it was actually needed before asking for permission.

Town-wide Phone Replacement Proposal: Jen said she had been working with a consultant to look at a complete overhaul of the town's phone systems. She said that the town hall system was aging into obsolescence, which was a concern, but then after meeting with the consultant it

became clear that there may be savings to realize if the entire town was on one or two compatible systems. She said the bid has been written, and the estimate came in as high as \$120,000 as a worst case scenario. Jen said for that price she could not support going forward this year, but perhaps the town could be asked for half of the money this year and half next. The Board felt this was a more reasonable approach.

Highway Department Employee Addition: Jen said she had done the math for the cost of a 16 week summer hire for the Highway Department. She said that Richie had indicated the addition of a third person for 16 weeks would allow the department to stay far enough ahead of the highway work that his crew would have time to do all the other non-highway work as discussed in the previous week. Cindy asked if the department would take over the mowing. Jen said the property yes, not the cemeteries. Richie said he thought this model was a great fit for the department and the town. He said his crew can respond quickly and efficiently to requests versus trying to organize work with an outside vendor. The total cost to the town is anticipated to be roughly \$7,000. The Board was willing to try it for one year and see how it went. Skipper said he was not in favor of the proposal in general and might vote against it in the budget.

Nissan Car Lease: Jen said gave the Board an annual cost breakdown for the lease vehicles which is roughly \$4,700. She said the mileage reimbursement would be roughly \$2,300. She noted that the lease price will go up in the next round if the Board determines they wish to lease, the buy-out price is \$9,135 for each car. Cindy asked Jen what she recommended at the end of the lease term. Jen said she originally thought buy-out was the right course of action until Kathy Logue had asked what the cost would be to the town to continue to lease, which she had not been considering. She expressed her concern with maintenance once the cars began to age, as there are no dealers on the island that can work on them, and further she had concerns about the battery life and replacement cost. Once all that was taken into account Jen said she thought the Town should turn them back in and lease new ones. After some discussion the Board said to budget for two new leases and one purchase of a 4 wheel drive vehicle.