

*Approved 11/29/23*  
**Town of West Tisbury**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, November 21, 2023 4:30 pm**  
**At the 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:** MacGregor Anderson, Greg Pachico, Bruce Stone, Kathy Logue, Nicola Blake, Paddy Moore, Thomas Humphrey, Janice Haynes and other members of the public who did not speak.

Cindy called the Select Board meeting to order at 4:30 pm. as acting Chair and the only Select Board member present in the room (the others were present via Zoom)

*Jessica moved to open the Tax Rate Classification Hearing. Skipper seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.*

Mac gave a presentation and shared info on his screen. The state allows for the Board to make a few choices and he explained them. He believes that the tax rate will be dropping about 1.4%. He spoke about the Residential Exemption and how hard it would be for the town to implement it for this upcoming tax year. The Board of Assessors has asked him to write up a short summary explaining the process for both their education and the Select Board if they are interested in the future. Jessica said she would be interested in pursuing this. Doug Ruskin also wrote a letter in support of the exemption and Cindy read it into the record. Mac said he has gone thru this process for the town of Oak Bluffs so he knows what needs to be done. He was asked to come up with a timeline on the whole process. He said he is looking forward to education the taxpayers.

*Jessica moved to close the Tax Rate Classification Hearing. Skipper seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.*

*Skipper moved that the Town of West Tisbury should: adopt a residential factor of one (1), adopt no additional discount for Open Space, adopt no small business exemption, and adopt no residential exemption. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.*

**Minutes:** November 8, 2023.

Skipper asked that the exact dates that they had discussed for the hiring of a new accountant be added to the minutes.

*Jessica moved to approve the Minutes of November 8, 2023 as amended. Skipper seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.*

## **New Business:**

- **Beer & Wine License Renewal:**

This is the yearly renewal for the Plane View Restaurant and the State Road Restaurant; nothing has changed. As folks are out of town she will send by Docu-sign for signatures and then she will send in the applications.

*Jessica moved to sign the Beer & Wine License Renewals for the Plane View Restaurant and the State Road Restaurants. Skipper seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor*

- **Review of Fire Chief Contract:**

Jen explained that the contract needs amending before the renewal in June so that Greg can budget. Jen shared the proposed changes and Greg is happy with them. They discussed whether the new contract will be called year 1 or year 4. Jess wanted the base starting amount identified in the contract. After discussion it was decided to amend the current contract and also make changes for the new one to include the 2.5% increase each year.

*Skipper moved to amend the current contract of the Fire Chief to include the 10 percent increase voted at Annual Town Meeting and add language to provide any other increases provided to other town employees. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor*

*Skipper moved to award the Fire Chief a new 3-year contract starting July 1, 2024 with the new language, with the first year's salary reflective of all the changes made this year. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor*

**Topics Not Anticipated:** There were none.

## **Old Business:**

- **Update on Up – Island Council on Aging:**

- **Update on Improving Governance Task Force:**

Cindy reported for both committees and said that both are 'in full force'. The COA board is fully filled and they have met. They found out that Joyce has decided to retire in May of 2024. They will create 2 sub-committees, one to work on bylaws and the MOU. The other will be the Facilities Planning Committee and Beth Kramer has offered to chair that one. Paddy asked that sub-committee meetings be open to the public and asked how to find out about them. Skipper wants to discuss the difference between 'working groups' and sub-committees at a future meeting. He thinks they should all be public.

As for the Improving Governance Task Force, they have gotten 2 new members and have been working on a survey for present committee and board members. They are also working on a manual.

**Correspondence:**

- **Dukes County Manager re:**
  - **Steamship Authority re: Sankaty mishap**
  - **Proposed Change from Elected to Appointed Treasurer**

Both items addressed in the letters will be on next weeks agenda for discussion.

**Public Comment:** There was none.

*With no further business to discuss Jessica moved to adjourn. Skipper seconded. All in favor.*

*Meeting adjourned at 5:33 pm*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Janice Haynes,  
Administrative Assistant*