

Approved 12/11/19
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, November 6, 2019 4:30 p.m. –5:59 pm

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

Also Present: Marie Louise Rouff, Bruce Stone, Kathy Logue, Dawn Barnes, Martina Thornton, Doug Ruskin, Greg Orcutt, Christine Todd, Richard Saltzberg, Louis Hofsteder

Minutes: *C. Mitchell motioned to approve the minutes of 10/23/19 with an amendment. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Municipal Vulnerability (MVP) Committee: *C. Mitchell motioned to appoint Russ Hartenstine, Sue Hruby, Garrison Vieira, Ginny Jones, Kate Warner and Faron Worthington to the MVP Committee. . K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Cemetery Regulations: The Board, acting as Cemetery Commissioners, discussed the proposed changes to the regulations to allow green burials in West Tisbury. Mary Louise had a few questions about process, the Board directed her to the Board of Health and told her if after reading the revised regulations she had further changes to discuss the Board could amend them again if need be.

C. Mitchell motioned to approve the cemetery. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Cape Cod Municipal Health Group (CCMHG) Disclosure of Possible Conflict: Kathy said that she was the town's appointee to the CCMHG; it was recently brought to their attention that anyone who actually uses the insurance might be perceived as having a conflict when making decisions about the insurance. She asked the Board to vote to sign the form acknowledging the possible conflict but allowing they have no concerns about it.

C. Mitchell motioned to authorize the Chair to sign the disclosure form. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

FMT 2021 Projections/Marijuana Tax: Bruce presented some very preliminary data showing what the budget year might look like based on the information he has right now. With the known warrant articles for spending the town may not need a Proposition 2.5 override, but there are still no requests from the school, which may dramatically change the bottom line. Bruce asked in light of that did the Board have any special request to town departments in their budget letter. Skipper said no, he thought they all did a good job keeping their budgets as tight as possible. Jen then said that the Financial Management Team had discussed and unanimously voted to recommend an article on the warrant asking voters if they wished to implement a 3% tax on the sale of marijuana and marijuana products. Noting that much like the short term rental tax, there are few opportunities to raise revenue that do not involve raising fees or property tax, so they voters may wish to find additional ways to ease their tax burden. Skipper said he was not in favor of new taxes, kent agreed with that sentiment. Doug said the Board could raise fees in departments whose fees do not cover the cost of the department. Skipper said he wasn't open to discussing that again. Cindy said she thought the voters should be able to make that decision. Regarding the short term rental tax Jen noted that she was going to explore Host Compliance companies to see if using one would increase tax revenue in town. She said that it appears that there are a number of

rentals that have not registered with the State, which means the tax has not been collected. If the cost to the town to use a compliance company was not too burdensome in time or money it might be worth doing. The Board agreed it was worth looking into.

C. Mitchell motioned to put an article on the warrant for the 3% marijuana tax. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Oyster Season: *C. Mitchell motioned to open the oyster season upon receipt of clean water test results, with last year's limits. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

State Forest Concerns: Kathy said she was concerned about the lack of a fire break between the roads that come off Old County and the Forest, she said areas that used to be mowed have now become completely grown up and there is dead wood underneath it, all of which could cause a catastrophic fire. The Board asked Jen to invite the Forest Manager in at his convenience to discuss.

County Agreement: Martina said she was back to ask the Board to sign the agreement she presented in June, which would put the management of all the County provided health services into one agreement. She said she had made the changes Skipper had asked for, and Edgartown had already signed. Aquinnah was due to sign shortly and had agreed in principle to the document. Cindy said she was fine with the document and asked how the agencies felt about the document. Martina said the agreement wasn't for them; it was only between the County and the Towns. Cindy noted that a 5% administrative fee was standard for program administration, so she did not have a problem signing that. Skipper expressed concerns about the County charging rent. Martina said the FAA has rent policies in place and the County cannot cover all the costs otherwise. Skipper said there should be a default assessment formula should the Committee not be able to come to agreement, Martina said she would change the contract to reflect a default. Skipper stated again he wasn't in favor of the 5% administrative fee and he thought that should be in a separate contract. Cindy felt that would over complicate things, further she urged Martina to track time and expense to assure that 5% was actually enough.

C. Mitchell motioned to approve the contract as amended. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was CM&KH in favor, SM opposed.