

**Approved 1/2/19**  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**SELECTMENS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, December 12, 2018 4:30 p.m. – 5:33 pm**

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

**Also Present:** Ron Rappaport, Suzie Bowman, Hunter Moorman, Richard Knabel, Kathy Logue, Holly Pretsky, Rich Saltzberg

**Minutes:** *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 11/28/18. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**1034 State Rd – Tax Taking:** Kathy Logue, Town Treasurer/Collector said the property had back due taxes beginning in 2016. After repeated attempts to contact the owner the Town finally moved forward with a tax taking, which was completed on November 20, 2018. Ron Rappaport, Town Counsel, told the Board that legally now the town owns the property, but for up to a year the previous owner can petition the court to vacate the order, repay what he owes in the entirety and the Board can vote to allow the property to be returned to the owner. Skipper asked if there was a mortgage on the property, Ron didn't know but would investigate. Kathy said if there was the bank should have been notified as part of the court proceedings. Ron said the Town now has an obligation to assure the property doesn't deteriorate. Jen said she had put insurance on the property that day, and planned to go to the house the next day with the Building Inspector and someone from the police; if the house was open, and, as believed, not inhabited, they would assure the water and power were off. The next step would be to ask the owner for permission to change the locks to secure the property. Skipper asked if the Board should have a discussion about the disposition of the property. Cindy said yes, but it was premature to do so now.

**MV Agricultural Society (MVAS) Request for No Parking Signs:** Skipper said he wanted to revisit the vote take the week prior to put up no parking signs. He said he was contacted by a member of the Conservation Commission who was very concerned about the vote and he felt it should have been an agenda item. He said the road was scenic and should not be marred by more signs. Kent said he was having second thoughts also. Hunter Moorman said he lived on the road and felt it was the responsibility of the MVAS as the only reason for the need was their events. Suzie Bowman said she was a direct abutter, she and her husband were strong supporters of the MVAS from the beginning as they were the anonymous donors noted on the plaque in the meeting hall. They want the MVAS to succeed but the road is too beautiful for more signs, the cones have worked just fine in the past and that should continue. Richard Knabel said the cones were the result of a meeting attended by him as Selectmen with Dan Rossi when he was Police Chief. He said that at that meeting the MVAS noted they would put cones out and Chief Rossi said he would ticket those cars not in compliance. Cindy noted that when she supported the signs she was not envisioning the road covered in signs every few feet. She said it was reasonable to ask the MVAS to manage their parking.

*S. Manter motioned to rescind the vote taking regarding parking signs the previous week. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Mill Brook Bridge:** Jen said she had met on site with engineers from Howard Stein Hudson (HSH), Maria McFarland from the Conservation Commission and Transportation staff from the MV Commission. They Board had asked Jen to work with the group to determine if it was feasible for the town to put up a separate pedestrian/bicycle bridge on either side of the current

bridge. HSH had produced a report after the site visit, which she supplied the board explaining that it was not possible to put a bridge on the west side, as the owner was not interested in providing an easement, and on the East side the permitting a safety factors made the project pretty much impossible. Jen then proposed an alternative, which would be a project working with Northeastern University students to develop a plan to get pedestrians and cyclists to the bridge safely, which might then allow the bridge project to access grants from the Complete Streets or other similar programs. The Board thought this was a good idea and authorized Jen to go forward.

**MV Commission (MVC) Appointment:** *S. Manter motioned to appoint Ernie Thomas to the MVC for the upcoming year. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Selectmen Budgets:** Jen reviewed line items 122, 424, 196,124, 491, 491, 193 & 945 with the Board. In budget 122 (Selectmen) she noted that the lease vehicle cost was rising and a few other lines had changed up or down relative to past spending, but there were no other major changes. Line 491 (cemeteries) had an added amount to cover paying Alan Gowell for his assistance. In years past he has not asked to be paid, but at the request of the Board over the last year he had reconsidered and now is asking for some payment. The other budgets changed very little and are reflective of the previous year and current spending patterns.