

Approved 1/3/24
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, December 20, 2023 4:30 pm
At the Town Hall and via Zoom

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

Also present or on Zoom for part or all of the meeting: Russ Hartenstein, Mac Anderson, Jeffrey Dubard, Greg Pachico, Kathy Logue, Sebastian Hiatt, Kim Leaird, Richard Andre, Kim Angell, Eunki Seonwoo, Thomas Humphrey other members of the public that did not speak.

Jessica called the Select Board meeting to order at 4:30 pm for Skipper who was running late.

Minutes:

- **December 13, 2023:**

Cindy moved to approve the Minutes of November 29, 2023. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

New Business:

- **140 Merry Farm Road – Request for Conservation Restriction:**

Jefrey explained that he has a plot of land and one of the requirements for being able to develop it is to designate a portion with conservation restrictions. He wants to create affordable housing units on the land. He has approached a few island agencies, but none of them are interested in holding the restriction at this time. He is now requesting that the town be a co-holder. Jeffrey mentioned that Adam from Sherriff's Meadow has offered to help, but were also not interested in holding the restriction. Cindy noted that the town has not held a restriction since the 1970's and Skipper wondered about the benefit to the town as no public access is planned at this time. Jessica had reservations about the town getting involved too and feels they are not in a position to be a holder. After discussion, it was decided that since the policy from 1979 states that the assessors, planning board and other entities need to meet jointly if a restriction is to be placed and held by the town, they would put it before the other boards and have a further discussion sometime in January or February. They requested Jeffrey to do some more homework and try and find a co-holder. He also needs to rewrite the restrictions so that others might be interested. Sebastian asked if the co-holder could be a private entity, like a farmer, but Mac said he has done some research and believes it does need to be a public entity. Jeffrey will also approach the tribe.

- **MV Commission Appointment – Ernie Thomas:**

Ernie has requested re-appointment and the board was happy to have him.

Skipper moved to reappoint Ernie Thomas to the MV Commission. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Regional Emergency Manager – Request for WT to act as Fiscal Agent:**

Kathy explained that the candidate the county has for this already works full time for the county and the only way to do it would be for them to work over-time. The town already does this for the Fire Training Council and it would work similarly with the money being paid to the town and the town paying the REM. West Tisbury would be phased out of this position in 3 years. Russ also spoke about revising the MOU. There was discussion about running it by counsel, and it was decided that once Jack Collins had approved it the board would agree to it.

- **Capital Improvements Request for Committee to Study Police/Fire Station Building Needs:**

Kathy says that the Capital Improvements Committee thinks that it's time to look at the Public Safety Building. There are some renovations needed, they would like to create bunk rooms and some of the rules about shared rooms over night have changed. Greg also spoke about additional storage space and meeting rooms, and the possibility of creating an upstairs. The board all agreed that they should create a study committee. It was decided that Greg as fire chief, Richard Andre representing the energy committee and Kathy would be the first members, and they would also try and include a representative from the Board of Health and EMS, plus someone with building experience. They will begin with creating the charge for the committee.

Skipper moved to create a committee to study the Public Safety Building project and appoint Greg Pachico, Richard Andre and Kathy Logue to the committee. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **IT Staffing:**

Kathy spoke again to explain that with Bruce retiring she did not feel she would be able to do it all herself. Kim Leaird has expressed interest in helping out, but they need to rework the whole system especially since Kathy will be retiring eventually too. They have Ben who is an independent contractor and does a great job, but they feel they need an in-house person also. They presented a description of the work they generally do, and spoke about what they felt would be needed. After discussion, it was decided that they might incorporate the IT work into the multi-board administrative position that they just created. The job description will need to be re-written and regraded.

- **Meeting December 27th?**

The board decided a meeting was not necessary and the next meeting will be January 3rd 2024.

Topics Not Anticipated:

- Skipper reminded everyone about drive-thru egg-nog at his house on Thursday 12/21.

Old Business: There was none.

Correspondence:

- **Cape Light Compact Q3 Report:** No discussion.
- **Pratt Resignation from Task Force Against Discrimination:**

Skipper moved to accept the resignation of Alexandra Pratt from the Task Force Against Discrimination with thanks. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **MA DOT re: Fair Share Apportionment:** Jen said this was money in addition to other money.

Public Comment:

- Jen mentioned that the bike safety signs are up.

With no further business to discuss, Skipper moved adjourn the meeting. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 5:50 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant