

~Draft~
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 14, 2024 4:30 pm
At the Town Hall and via Zoom

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

Also present or on Zoom for all or part of the meeting: Bruce Stone, Kathy Logue, Chelsea Joiner, Dan Carbon, Chris Lyons, Joan Chaves, Thomas Humphrey, Abigail Rosen, Janice Haynes and other members of the public who did not speak.

Skipper called the Select Board meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Minutes:

- **February 14, 2024:**

There were no edits or corrections.

Jessica moved to approve the Minutes of February 14, 2024. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

New Business: -they changed the order of the agenda to get a couple of small items taken care of before the interviews.

- **Conservation Commission Appointment:**

Jen explained that the Conservation Commission has requested that Fred Barron and Chris Lyons swap roles and Chris will become a full member and Fred will now be an associate member. Chris said he is fine with the swap. No discussion.

Jessica moved to appoint Chris Lyons as a full member and Fred Barron as associate member, swapping their current roles. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Override Conversation & possible vote:**

Jen explained that the Financial Management Team met that morning and have decided that the best course of action is to assign the override that is necessary to the school budget rather than the Tri-Town budget. The voters had already voted their commitment to the increase in the Tri-Town budget, and it was an increase that would drop over time. The school increase is not likely to go down, and can be directly tied to the need for the override.

Jessica moved to assign the override as recommended by the Financial Management Team. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **Town Accountant Interviews:**

- **Chelsea Joiner 4:35 pm**

Chelsea introduced herself and spoke about her background and experience. The board including Bruce and Kathy, then went on to ask her some pre-determined questions.

When asked if she had done any research into being a municipal accountant she said that yes, she had done a lot of research on MA General Law and thinks that her experience will be helpful in learning the differences with municipalities.

She has no problem asking lots of questions and likes to do research so believes her experience will mitigate her lack of municipal experience. She went on to explain some of her experience and how it relates.

She mentioned that she doesn't have experience with general ledgers but has audited them. Bruce pointed out that they work with multiple funding accounts and she is confident she can learn.

When asked about working with a team and interruptions she says in her current position she usually works w/ autonomy and has a lot of people answering to her. She says she is comfortable with working with others and is used to many interruptions, it happens all the time now. She is used to bouncing ideas off of each other with her current team.

She is used to analyzing trends and creates policy all the time. She is currently on a budget committee for her company and is comfortable with the budget process. She is used to explaining money matters and budgeting to non-accountant people.

When asked if she would be comfortable standing up in front of the room at town meeting and speaking to the room she said she likes to be able to make things understandable to all and is very comfortable with public speaking.

Kathy reiterated that she would have no assistant and would have to do the basic day-to-day things like data entry and filing. She said that she actually likes to be "in the weeds" and likes to know the nuts and bolts, and is ok with that.

When she was given the opportunity to ask questions she asked Bruce about his day-to-day routine and he explained a bit about the cyclical nature of the job, bi weekly bills, monthly and yearly deadlines, statutory requirements, etcetera.

Chelsea was thanked for coming and the board said they would be in touch.

- **Dan Carbon 5:00 pm**

Dan introduced himself and spoke about his background and history with the island and his main experience running companies.

When asked, he said no, he had not done any research into municipal accounting. He says he understands accounting responsibilities but would have to learn the municipal side of

it but thinks he could learn it. He does not believe his previous experience would mitigate the lack of municipal experience, but said again he believes he could learn.

As for transactional processes, he said running a small business he had to do a bit of everything.

When asked about working with a team, he said he had mainly been in management, managing a team, and gravitates toward leading, but he isn't uncomfortable with working with a team. He is used to interruptions and dealing with things as they arose. He says he is good at multi-tasking and likes an open office.

He said in past positions he analyzed trends all the time and is comfortable with it. He has created budgets and analyzed them.

As to speaking at town meeting and explaining the finances to the voters, he said he has done it a lot and knows how to explain. He said he might be nervous speaking in front of the room at first.

He had no questions for the board and Jen said he could email her if he did have any later. He was thanked for coming.

Topics Not Anticipated:

- Jen gave the heads-up that the draft of the warrant has gone to counsel. The article for the Eversource easement has been removed and explained that most of the project can be completed before they need to vote it, it can even be done next year. Kathy said she has not heard back from Bond Counsel. Jen says we are doing fine timewise with the budget and warrant.

Old Business: There was none.

Correspondence: There was none.

Public Comment: There were none, but Jen reminded the board that they meet with the Historic District on Monday. Skipper mentioned that he attended the Financial management meeting that morning and thought they did well.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:34 pm

*Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant*