

**Approved 3/11/20**  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**SELECTMENS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 26, 2020 4:30 p.m. –5:20 pm**

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

**Also Present:** John Rau, Doug Ruskin, Beth Kramer, Omar Johnson, Don Hatch, Rich Saltzberg, Will Sennott

**Minutes:** *C. Mitchell motioned to approve the minutes of 2/05/20. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Town Meeting Forum:** Beth said the Alexandra, the new Library Director, was hosting the forum and that postcards would be mailed using a federal grant for community engagement. The idea came after “What Makes WT Tick” when some people were discussing how to expand on that forum. The forum will be called “Town Meeting 101” and will be held March 30<sup>th</sup> at 6-8:30 pm at the Library. Dan Waters will moderate the forum and speak in general about how town meeting works. Alexandra has asked representatives for each article to attend. The Library will provide child care and snacks. Skipper said this was good opportunity for the town but noted she should have reached out to departments first. Employees have to be compensated to be there. Beth said they understand that now.

**Zoning Board Appointment:** *C Mitchell motioned to appoint John Rau to the ZBA until 2020. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Refuse District:** Jen said she had attended the Refuse District meeting the week prior. The discussion focused on the need for repairs as soon as possible on the wall at the West Tisbury Local Drop Off. She said it was clear from the discussion that if the funding didn’t pass at town meeting the District was prepared to close West Tisbury. To that end, there is an article on the warrant for the town to pay for the repairs out of free cash. Cindy asked if the District would still control the site. Jen said the agreement will be redrafted to return control to the Town to assure the town has a say in whether it remains open or not. Kent said he was involved at the beginning, it was never a question that the towns would have control ultimately. He added that the District required the trash go to them for Seamass and the modified agreement must require that the trash goes to them. Town should be responsible for maintenance. Don said the lease expired ten years ago, the new one would go back to an operation contract. Kent asked what needs to be fixed. Don said the wall needs to be lower and we need to put a railing up to keep people safe. Kent asked who approves the plan. Jen said the Selectmen with the district’s input. Omar noted that the current safety concerns have prompted a temporary solution with containers until the wall is fixed. Don said its temporary because containers will be needed this summer at the other sites. Skipper asked if the agreement would be redrafted with all towns. Don said yes the agreement will go to Chilmark as well. He said Aquinnah already maintains their site. Skipper asked about the employees. Don said they

can stay as District employees. Skipper said the agreement says District pays for all expenses. Cindy noted that the District Committee has been clear they will vote to close. Skipper said Appendix A says they will run the Drop Off. He said we're going in the wrong direction away from being a district, he said no other town will contribute and they can use it. Skipper asked who paid for capital repairs in Chilmark. Don said it was 50/50 with Chilmark and the District. Skipper said the cost should be shared in by all towns. Kent said that we need to get a plan that shows how much the wall repair actually costs. Cindy said to stick with the estimate we have for now noting the amount can be revised when we get a better plan. Don noted that District Counsel is drafting a new agreement for discussion ASAP.

**Cable Advisory Legal Cost:** Jen explained that during the last cable negotiating process the Island town's had worked together, they had collectively hired an attorney and split the legal fees six ways. She asked if the Board was okay with this arrangement again. They said yes.

**School Funding Formula:** Jen said that when she had met with the other Island Town Administrators they had discussed the High School funding formula. Some of the ideas that were discussed included a rolling 5 year census, a separate formula for capital costs and some form of Payment in Lieu of Taxes to Oak Bluffs for the value of the land. The group thought appointing a committee to look at this would be the next step. Cindy said the Town Administrators have made real progress moving things forward in a way the political people cannot using the funding formula for the Safety Communications project as an example. She said they know their boards and the town politics, which is a great place to begin to get a bead on it. Skipper thought that was a good idea. Cindy said they won't be able to speak for how their board will vote but they have a good sense of what might be possible. She gave credit to Jen for setting a positive tone for these conversations.

**Toni Cohen Resignation:** *K. Healy motioned to accept Toni Cohen's resignation with thanks for her service. C Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

*Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Rand, Town Administrator*