

Approved 3/13/24
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 28, 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, John McKenna, Joan Chaves, Alexandra Pratt, Bernadette Lyons, Eunki Seonwoo, Ethan Genter, Janice Haynes and other members of the public who did not speak.

Skipper called the Select Board meeting to order at 4:33 pm.

Minutes:

• **February 21, 2024:**

There were no edits or corrections.

Cindy moved to approve the Minutes of February 21, 2024. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

New Business: -they changed the order of the agenda to get 1 short item taken care of before the interview.

• **NStar License Agreement for School EV Project – Vote to sign**

Jen explained that the board has already approved the project but need to vote to sign the license agreement to allow them to erect the stations on our property at the school.

Cindy moved to have the board sign the NStar License Agreement for School EV Project. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

• **Town Accountant Interviews, Discussion & Possible Preliminary Decision:**

○ **John McKenna 4:35 pm:**

John introduced himself and spoke a bit about his coming to the island and his experience. He has been on island since Covid.

When asked if he has familiarized himself with municipal account he said that he has studied Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and has looked into some of the municipal training courses available thru the state.

When asked about understanding MGL and reporting requirements of the Dept. of Revenue he mentioned that he has worked with at least 3 different general ledgers and has experience adapting to new systems.

Cindy asked him to describe his hands-on experience with accounting, the day to day transactional things and fund accounting and he elaborated on his experience, building budgets and spoke about how he would adapt his accounting experience.

Kathy spoke about the Financial management Team and asked about his working style with a team. He says he has managed teams before. He believes in leading by example and doing what needs to be done to get the job done. He spoke about some of the projects he has worked on and how the team worked together. He mentioned consensus building and coaching. When asked about dealing with interruptions, he said he had had an open-door office in the past and spoke about how he dealt with it and refocused.

He spoke about analysis of trends and what he had done in the past. When asked about dealing with people with different levels of expertise with budgeting he explained that he has dealt with that in the past and was comfortable explaining things.

He believes that speaking in front of town meeting to explain the budget to the taxpayers would be part of his responsibility and has done similar speaking in the past so is comfortable with it.

He had no questions for the board.

He was thanked for coming in and was told that they would be discussing their choices and would get back to him.

After John left, the board went on to discuss the choices. They were unanimous in their concerns that Dan Carbon did not have the relevant background for the position, but wanted to thank him for applying. Everyone was impressed with both Chelsea and John and felt that they would be well served by either. They went on to discuss the pro's and cons of both candidates and after discussion agreed to offer the position first to Chelsea and second to John if Chelsea didn't work out. The offer would be made at Grade 9 Step 1. Jen will contact all the candidates tonight after the meeting.

Cindy moved to offer the position of Town Accountant to Chelsea Joiner at Grade 9 Step 1, to start April 1st, 2024; contingent on CORI check and check of references. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

Cindy moved to offer the position of Town Accountant to John Mckenna if Chelsea Joiner doesn't work out, at Step 1, to start April 1st, 2024; contingent on CORI check and check of references. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

- **NetFlix Filming on Town Property:**

There's been no further info sent so item is postponed.

- **Meeting Postings – Portuguese Translation:**

Skipper spoke about how it would be nice to have translations for the website, which Jen pointed out that we do. He also wanted translations for some documents on the web page. Jen

said her priority would be a phone translation service available to town hall employees and spoke about some recent experiences. Joan as tax collector has also had some language issues. Cindy agreed and suggested Jen look into what other towns may be doing and check into vendors that do translation. Bruce suggested reaching out to the Brazilian community and see what they would want prioritized. Bernadette says the court system has been offering translation services for years and may be a good resource. They agreed they were all good suggestions and will do some research and come back to the topic.

Topics Not Anticipated: There was none.

Old Business:

- **Library HVAC:**

Jen said that the conversation has come up about using mini-splits and in a nut-shell, they are not appropriate for a municipal situation. She referred to a report done by the engineers about why the system they have chosen is correct. She admitted that she should have been clearer at ATM last year that the number being voted was not a hard number, and they should have learned from the Chilmark situation. Cindy pointed out that the Financial Management Team has set this up as a borrowing situation and they do not have to borrow all the money if the numbers come in lower. Kathy made the point that they should be very ready to answer questions at ATM and should have it all laid out ahead of time explaining how they got to where they it's at. Alexandra reiterated that the new system has been recommended by 2 different consultants. Jessica spoke about procurement, and how locals cannot be used in this case, and educating the public on how it works with having bonded companies and so on. They spoke about drafting a FAQ, developing a presentation, and utilizing the OPM to come speak at town meeting. They will also look at using the Library as a resource center.

Correspondence: There was none.

Public Comment: There were none.

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Janice Haynes,
Administrative Assistant*