

Approved 2/26/20
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, February 5, 2020 4:30 p.m. –5:28 pm

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

Also Present: Alexandra Pratt, Beth Kramer, Wayne Smith, Fran Finnegan, Kathy Logue, Wendy Nierenberg, Andrew Zaikis, Carolyn Flanders

Minutes: *C. Mitchell motioned to approve the minutes of 1/22/20. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Library Director Introduction: Carolyn said that the Director search had begun in October. There was a search committee created consisting of Wayne, Rob Hauck, Neila Decker, Dan Waters and Peggy Isham. They reviewed 9 applications, interviewed 3 people and put forward 2 for final consideration. Staff and Trustees all met Alexandra and were very impressed and excited to have her move up to the position of Director from her current position of Children’s Librarian. Alexandra said she was very excited to begin; the plan was for her to start on March 1st and Beth to stay on until April 1st.

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Associate Appointment: *C. Mitchell motioned to appoint Andrew Zaikis to the ZBA as an Associate for 5 years. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Warrant Articles: Jen explained that the Financial Management Team had determined that the school capital expense articles, and the Town building maintenance were planned to be funded all or in part by the money appropriated last year for the School Superintendent’s building. The money will not be needed because Oak Bluffs denied the request. Skipper asked if the money could be directly applied to reduce the tax rate. Jen said yes. Kathy asked if the net effect would be the same. Cindy thought it made no sense to do that if this works. The Board left it as is.

Jen asked for guidance if the Board wanted to leave the article for the school speed sign on the warrant. Skipper said he thought it wasn’t urgent and the school could pay for it next year. Kathy noted that the Town would still pay 80% of the cost, and as someone that lives in the area she thought it best to proceed as soon as possible. Kent said he felt that speed was a town problem. The article will remain and Jen will work to try and get hard numbers for the cost as the estimate may be too high.

Jen explained that the article for the school bus lease was premature and the language could not be provided in enough time to place it on the warrant for the annual town meeting. The school committee would meet and vote in March at which point the Selectmen would need to meet to call a special town meeting.

The Board discussed the wording for the Chilmark TriTown Building funding agreement. They agreed that the voters should have the opportunity to weigh in on a 20 year agreement to fund 1/3 the cost of the actual building construction. Jen will send the draft language to Town Counsel as well as the towns of Chilmark and Aquinnah.

Jen asked if the Board wanted the language “provided all six towns vote in the affirmative” on the county program funding articles. The Board said yes.

Skipper said he thought the funding for the Tiah’s Cove culvert could wait a year. It wasn’t an emergency and there was the possibility of grant funding. Kent agreed there was no need to rush the project. The article will be pulled from the warrant.

Jen asked if the Board was willing to omit the language in the Vineyard Transit (VTA) warrant article requiring all six towns vote in the affirmative. She noted that the Administrator of the VTA had sent the Board further information indicating that the towns that paid for additional service would be the towns that received added service. The Board agreed to omit that language from the article.

Phone System: Jen said the phone bids had been received and three bidders had been invited in to make a presentation. After the presentation, and analyzing the cost she had sat down with Kathy and Bruce to pick a system and a vendor and they had chosen TPX, who will provide a fully hosted system (in other words, the system lives in the cloud). Over ten years the savings are dramatic. She noted that the biggest concern the group had was what happens if the internet goes out. It turns out that an internet outage will equally affect the other phone systems which still operate over the internet. She said that she had checked references and the towns she spoke to were happy with the system.

C. Mitchell motioned to authorize Jen to sign a contract for phone services with TPX. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Rand, Town Administrator