

Approved 4/3/24
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting
Wednesday, March 27, 2024 4:30 pm
At the Town Hall and via Zoom

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

Also present or on Zoom for all or part of the meeting: Larry Schubert, Mike Colaneri, Maria MacFarland, Mac Anderson, Olivia Lukacic, Perry, Ambulos, Bruce Stone, Kathy Logue, Doug Ruskin, Eunki Seonwoo, Thomas Humphrey, Janice Haynes and other members of the public that did not speak.

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

Minutes: Vote to Approve: March 20, 2024
Skipper had one small edit on the last page.

Cindy moved to approve the minutes of March 20, 2024 as edited. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.

New Business:

- **Assessors Discussion Regarding Tax Policy Options:**

Larry called the Board of Assessors to order as all members were present. He then went on to explain the documents they had prepared and Jen shared them on screen. The first was the Residential Exemption and he explained how it would work. He said they are not there to lobby the Select board to do it, but want to be prepared if it is chosen at the tax levy hearing in November or December. They would need to start pre-qualifying people no later than June with the clear understanding of the tax payers that this hasn't yet been decided. Jessica asked if the pre-qualifying early would give them a better idea of how the tax levy would be affected. The short answer was yes, but more people will probably sign up after the tax hearing so numbers will change. Bruce pointed out that there could be a levy limit problem as there is an override this year.

There was discussion about overlays and allowances for abatements. Mike pointed out that other communities that have adopted the residential exemption have benefited the tax payers. Skipper asked about the admin assistant position if there would still be work for them if they did not choose to do this and the answer was yes.

It was decided to meet again after ATM to discuss more and get further into the math, and to have public hearings in the summer months when the seasonal homeowners are here as they would be affected.

Larry went on to speak about Payment in Lieu of Taxes for non-profits. He explained how other communities have addressed it and said that it was totally voluntary, but they could ask. Mac explained some of the math.

Lastly, Larry spoke about the Affordable Rental property tax relief option and explained it. The board thought that was a good idea and Kathy said the Financial Management Team also thought it was good. The state is still working on it so they have time. Mac said there would be no pre-qualification on this one.

The Board of Assessors and Mac were thanked for all of the info.

- **Conservation Restrictions – Trustees of Reservations – Land off Watcha Path:**

Olivia from the Trustees of Reservation explained the request and showed on a map the 3 separate areas they are talking about. Perry was there representing the homeowner's association. Jessica said that because Perry was her uncle she needed to recuse herself from the votes on 2 of the 3 parcels.

Cindy moved to approve and sign the Conservation Restrictions to the Trustees of Reservations for 2 parcels of land off Watcha Path as presented. Skipper seconded. Roll call vote: Cindy- aye, Skipper – aye, Jessica – abstained. (2-0-1)

Cindy moved to approve and sign the Conservation Restrictions to the Trustees of Reservations for 1 parcel of land off Watcha Path as presented. Skipper seconded. All in favor.

- **Joint Emergency Manager Intergovernmental Agreement:**

Jen explained that the board had agreed previously to be the fiscal agent for the county and now counsel has approved the MOU. There was some discussion as to why the county wasn't paying in an equal share.

Cindy moved to authorize Jen to sign the Joint Emergency Manager Intergovernmental Agreement. Jessica seconded. All in favor.

- **Opioid Settlement Fund Pooling Agreement:**

Jen explained that all the island towns were getting some money, but none of them were getting enough to really be useful. Bruce went on to explain the math and the payments that will go on thru 2039. It will actually amount to some real money when pooled. By agreeing to the MOU it can then be managed by a committee of representatives from all island towns. It still needs to go to counsel for review and Jen's question is should they send it to counsel even if the other towns say no, (one already has).

Cindy moved to Opioid Settlement Fund Pooling Agreement to counsel for review, regardless of the other towns. Jessica seconded. All in favor.

Topics Not Anticipated: There was none but Skipper mentioned that the electronic sign to remind people of ATM should be in place next Wednesday for a week. Jessica has made flyers and has started posting them.

Old Business: There was none.

Correspondence:

- **Invitation to Consult on the Vineyard Northeast Offshore Wind Energy Development:**

Jen says we have never chosen to participate before. We literally have 'no dog in the fight'. Jessica wondered if the Energy Committee has been asked and Jen said they may have in the past but also were not interested. She requested that the invite be sent to them anyhow.

- **J. Chavez Resignation:**

Joan has sent an unexpected letter stating her plans to retire June 30th. Skipper read the letter. There was discussion about getting an ad in the paper as soon as next week and the fact that Kathy plans to retire within a year or so, so they should look to hiring someone who could possibly move up to the Treasurer position when she does. They will likely request a RFT for Joan to be able to help train the new person while she is still working.

Public Comment: Bruce said Chelsea starts Monday!

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:52 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

*Janice Haynes,
Administrative Assistant*