

Approved 4/15/20
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
April 1, 2020 4:40 pm –
Zoom conference call meeting

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

Also Present:, Russ Hartenstein, Bruce Stone, Kathy Logue, Greg Orcutt, Doug Ruskin, Matt Gebo, Geoff Rose, Will Sennott, Mike Bellisimo

Skipper called the meeting to order

Pay for Emergency Manager: Bruce said that the Financial Management Team met, and working with the Personnel Board administrator came up with a proposal to hire Russ as a temporary health agent at Grade 7 Step 3. This would allow him to be paid as an employee, would keep him covered under worker's compensation insurance but would not provide other permanent employee benefits. He can work in this fashion for up to six months. Skipper asked if the Board of Health should make that appointment. Jen said that because the funding will come from the Selectmen's account they can make the appointment.

C. Mitchell motioned to appoint Russ Hartenstine as a Temporary Health Agent at Grade 7 Step 3. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

Shelter in Place: Jen said that the Governor has extended the Shelter in Place Advisory until May 4th. On an island wide call with Town Administrators, Health Agents and Building Inspectors there was agreement to extend the Island's order until May 4th.

C. Mitchell motioned to extend the Shelter in Place order until May 4th. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

Construction Ban: Jen said at the same meeting as mentioned above the group agreed to extend the construction ban to April 21st. In this time there is a working group of Building Inspectors, Health Agents and construction industry people who were meeting to develop regulations to get everyone back to work after the 21st safely. The ban still has the chance it could be extended further if the island experiences a surge of cases in the intervening days. Kent asked that the ban indicate that the Board of Health will determine if requested work meets the definition of emergency.

C. Mitchell motioned to extend the Construction Ban order until April 21st. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

Request to Department of Revenue (DOR): Bruce said the Legislature had passed a bill that allows towns, with a request to the DOR, to overspend their appropriations. This can be amortized over the next few fiscal years if needed. He presented the Board with the proposed request, which outlined the areas expected to surpass their appropriations. Jen clarified that the town may submit further requests to DOR if the projections are low. Doug asked how this would affect cash flow. Kathy said the Legislature is expected to pass a bill to allow an extension to tax due dates. If a lot of people take advantage of that the town may have a cash crunch especially if the schools need their money on the regular schedule. She said many tax bills are paid by the mortgage companies and will likely come in on time.

C. Mitchell motioned to send the request to DOR. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

Cemetery Documents: *C. Mitchell motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to sign cemetery documents on the Chair's behalf. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor.*

Bill Warrants: *C. Mitchell motioned to approve the bill warrants of 3/20/20 and 4/3/20. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor.*

WT Police Department Emergency Appointments: *C. Mitchell motioned to appoint Dan Durawa and Mark Nickowall at Grade 6 Step 1. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted with KH & CM in favor, SM abstained.*

Public Comment: Doug complimented the Board for their handling of the public health emergency.

Mike Bellisimo asked about how Airbnb's were being handled with the Governor's orders for them to close down. Jen said the Governor had indicated that the short term rental sites would be posting something on their websites. When she checked that morning nothing had been posted so she had an email out to Senator Cyr's office to discuss with them.

Adjourned 5:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer Rand, Town Administrator