

Approved 4/29/20
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
April 15, 2020 4:40 pm – 5:45
Virtual meeting

Present: Selectmen Skipper Manter, Cindy Mitchell, Jen Rand

Also Present: Russ Hartenstein, John Rau, Matt Gebo, Doug Ruskin, Greg Orcutt, Kathy Logue, Will Sennott, Mike Bellissimo, Tucker Hubble, Tara Whiting-Wells, Dan Waters, Dan & Kate Sherlis, John Sherlis, Jeffrey Dubard, Diana Gilmore, Tom Shropshire, Lucas Thors

Skipper called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm

C. Mitchell motioned to approve the minutes of March 21, 24 & 25, and April 1, 2020. Kent Healy seconded the motion. The roll call vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

New Business/Covid-19 Update:

Code Red: Jen explained that normally the Board of Selectmen do not sign off on the use of the Code Red system, the Emergency Manager and the Police Department access the system in the case of urgent emergencies. In this instance, the plan to use the system is due to the current public health emergency but not an urgent emergency announcement. Russ said he wanted to use the system for the Medical Reserves Corp to put out a call for medical staff to stand by in reserve should they be needed. He said Edgartown had sent out a text alert that had gotten a good response. He noted this might bring more attention to the Code Red system and get more people to sign up. Skipper said he wasn't in favor of the use of Code Red for anything other than an impending emergency. He asked about the text system used by Edgartown. Russ said he didn't have the capacity for that system, he noted that Edgartown has a full time IT person on staff. Cindy said she thought this was an actual emergency and this was a good use of the system. Skipper asked if the announcement could be coordinated with the other towns so it didn't go out multiple times, but only once. Russ said he will bring it to the other Emergency Managers.

C. Mitchell motioned to approve the use of Code Red for the purpose described. Kent Healy seconded the motion. The roll call vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Town Meeting: Skipper suggested that town meeting be postponed further to either June 9th or June 16th. Jen said that she would prefer to avoid the 16th. She said Edgartown and Oak Bluffs were planning on the 16th and due to the possibility of changes to budgets etc, she thought it better that if possible regional agencies have the ability to attend as many meetings as possible.

Budget Letter: The Board reviewed the joint letter from the Finance Committee, The Selectmen and the Financial Management Team. Cindy suggested a change to make it clear that the concern was the impact on the taxpayers with the current economic crisis. Skipper suggested making the date for recommended changes to be mid-may now the town meeting will be postponed again.

C. Mitchell motioned to approve the letter with the recommended changes. Kent Healy seconded the motion. The roll call vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Town Meeting Warrant: Skipper said he would like to work with Jen to go through the warrant and try and identify any articles that could be postponed until a fall town meeting. Cindy said that was fine but asked that the Board be able to review the suggestions next week. Doug asked if the warrant could be changed. Jen said no, it has been posted so it is now the final warrant.

Dukes County Regional Housing Authority Rental Assistance: David Vignault outlined the stresses facing the renters on the island right now with the shutdown. (*documents attached as part of these minutes with details*) He said he is working with the Permanent Endowment and donors to try and fill the gap for those renters who would not normally qualify for rental assistance because they are in market rate rentals. Cindy asked how much money would need to be raised for the market rate rental assistance. David said roughly \$150k. Jeffrey said the Affordable Housing Committee mandate does not generally include market rate, and while he is supportive of those needs he felt it important to focus on that. David said his mandate was also affordable housing but this issue is affecting everyone. He clarified that he did not expect the town to contribute funding to market rate rentals, those funds would be raised privately, but the affordable rental program was also likely to need more funds. Dan said that if the assistance was structured as a loan it would help more people, he added that everyone should be clear if the loan would impact other state and federal aid people may be applying for.

Construction Ban Phase 1 Back to Work Regulations: Jen said that the Town Administrators had met with Health Agents and the regulations working group to discuss the extension of the Construction Ban and the phased in regulations to get crews of one or two people back to work. She said there was no agreement in the group regarding whether to extend the order until the 28th or open the work up on the 21st. The hospital had strongly requested that the ban be extended, the surge in Boston was delayed by about a week and there was a risk that hospitals could be overwhelmed. She said the West Tisbury Health Agent felt the ban should be extended until the 28th, but if the Island did not work as one it would be too difficult to enforce. Kent said he thought the regulations were okay but could be difficult to enforce. Jen said like any of the regulations we will do the best we can and count on the crews to do the right thing. Cindy said she supported the hospital's request to extend the ban for another week. She said the phased in approach is a good one. Jen said the Board of Health would vote the following day whether to extend the ban or open on the 21st. The Board took no action, Cindy said she could only support the Board of Health if they extended the ban.

Food Distribution at the Ag. Hall: Jen said that Serving Hands had run a food distribution program at the Library the week prior and the traffic was so backed up cars were being staged in Alley's parking lot and a traffic detail had to be assigned. The group was asked to find an alternate site for the distribution on the 24th. The Director of the Ag. Society had sent a letter saying they had offered the property for use. Jen spoke with Brendan O'Neill of Sheriff's Meadow, holder of the Agricultural Restriction who was fine with the use. Jen asked if this could be approved for any future use for the purpose, Skipper said he wanted to see how went before he approved more.

C. Mitchell motioned to authorize the use of the Ag. Hall on the 24th. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and was unanimous in favor.

Lambert's Cove Inn Entertainment License: Jen said the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) had sent a letter saying they supported the request for the entertainment license. They did not address the parking issue. John said the board should request an engineer's plan showing the legal parking spots. Skipper noted the the ZBA decision referenced the total number of cars at an event. Tucker said he had been at all the hearings; he supported the decision of the ZBA and noted there was no mechanism to request further information once the hearing was closed and the appeals period had passed. He noted the Selectmen did not have jurisdiction to request this. Skipper noted that the zoning was the same for the Ag. Hall as the Inn and they were being treated differently.

K. Healy motioned to grant the entertainment license. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and was unanimous in favor.

With no other business C. Mitchell motioned to adjourn the meeting. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted and was unanimous in favor.

Adjourned 5:45 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer Rand, Town Administrator