

**Approved 5/6/20**  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**April 29, 2020 4:40 pm – 5:47**  
**\*Virtual meeting\***

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

**Also Present:** Matt Gebo, Doug Ruskin, Tara Whiting Wells, Kathy Logue, Ron Rappaport, Dan Waters, Mike Bellissimo, Greg Orcutt, Russ Hartenstine, Laura Silber, George Brennan

Cindy called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm

**Minutes:** *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 3/18/20, 3/23/20 & 4/15/20 with an amendment to 4/15/20. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Town Meeting – Quorum Reduction:** Jen said that the State Legislature has another bill in front of them to allow towns to reduce quorums at this year's annual town meeting, At this point it hasn't passed so there may be another option to achieve that. Marblehead has successfully filed with Superior Court a legal appeal to reduce their quorum to 30 with a designated list of articles to be considered. Ron asked if the Court had the ability to overrule a town bylaw, Ron said the court allowed this action. Tara said the quorum was about 130. Ron noted that if a true quorum showed up the town could take action on more articles than had been presented to the court. The Board agreed to pursue this option. Jen will work with Skipper to further refine the list of articles to be considered. Doug said he was concerned that people will not come to the meeting but understood the need. Kent said people should not come only to fill a quorum, they should want to participate.

*S. Manter motioned to appeal to the Court to reduce the quorum to 30. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Town Meeting Location:** Jen explained that the town does have the option of holding town meeting in a contiguous town due to the emergency declaration. She said she had spoken with the Tabernacle in Oak Bluffs and they said the town could use the site for town meeting for the cost of staff time. Alternately tents will cost the town roughly \$8,000. She noted there was no power at the soccer field so extension cords or generators would be needed. The Ag. Hall does have more readily available power. Dan said if the weather was bad tents were not a good choice, he would prefer the Tabernacle. Skipper said he thought town meeting should be in town. He thought people might not know how to get to the Tabernacle and would prefer to go to a site they were familiar with. Laura said for the elderly she thought the hard surfaces of the Tabernacle would be safer, she said she would feel more comfortable there. Mike said some people may need transportation. Jen said she had already planned to work with a bus company to investigate options. Doug asked about inside the Ag. Hall. Jen said the Health Agent has indicated he wasn't comfortable with people meeting inside. Kent said he thought the Tabernacle was probably the best location. Skipper said he thought there would be a lot of people around because it was close to July 4<sup>th</sup>. Kathy noted the Tabernacle would be significantly less expensive, which was a factor as well. Jen will work to pull together details for parking and transportation.

*S. Manter motioned to hold town meeting at the Tabernacle K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Emergency Management Assistant:** Jen said that Chris West had stepped down due to his time commitments with his job. Russ had asked that the Board appoint Jenelle Gadowski in his place.

*S. Manter motioned to accept Chris West's resignation with thanks. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

*S. Manter motioned to appoint Jenelle Gadowski to the position of Assistant Emergency Manager. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Electronic Signatures:** *S. Manter motioned to authorize the use of electronic signautes for the Board of Selectmen when appropriate. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Cable Negotiating Committee:** *S. Manter motioned to appoint Leon Braithwaite to the Cable Advisory Committee. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Absentee Voting:** Cindy noted that voters should be aware that absentee voting is available for the town election. Voters are encouraged to vote early if they do not wish to attend the polls on the day of the election.

**Short Term Borrowing:** Kathy said that she borrowed \$2 million at 1.35% to help with cash flow issues due to extended tax due dates.

*C. Mitchell motioned to adjourn the meeting. K. Healy seconded the motion. A roll call vote was unanimous in favor.*

Adjourned 5:47 pm

*Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer Rand, Town Administrator*