

Approved 6/9/21
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
May 26, 2021 4:30 pm
Virtual meeting

Present: Selectmen Skipper Manter, Cynthia Mitchell, Kent Healy and Town Administrator Jen Rand

Also present for part or all of the meeting: Jim Klingensmith, Angela Luckey, Kathy Logue, Greg Pachico, Chief Manny Estrella, Louisa Hufsteder, Rich Saltzberg

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

Minutes: Vote to approve: May 12th and May 19th, 2021:

Cindy made a motion to approve the minutes of May 12th and May 19th. Kent seconded. Roll call vote: all in favor

Skipper then called for a moment of silence to reflect and remember two former Town employees that have passed; Maureen Healy and Heidi Schultz.

New Business:

- **Conservation Commission Appointment - Angela Luckey:**

Kent made a motion to appoint Angela Luckey, currently an associate member, to the Conservation Commission to replace Binnie Ravitch who resigned. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: all in favor.

- **Old Courthouse Road CPC Deed Restriction – Vote to Sign:**

This is required to be recorded to memorialize the project, requested by the CPC.

Cindy made a motion to sign the Old Courthouse Road CPC Deed Restriction. Kent seconded. Roll call vote: all in favor.

- **Letter of Support for Airport Wastewater Improvement Grant:**

Jen had sent the Board some background information and drafted a letter. She said that she could sign but just needed their authorization.

Kent made a motion to authorize a letter of support for the Airport Wastewater Improvement Grant. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: all in favor.

- **Septic Loan Policy Determination:**

Kathy is looking for guidance for making septic loans. She is asking for a policy in place for when there may reason to believe there is an exceptional risk of not being repaid, such as an existing lien on the property. She is requesting the Select Board set a policy. So far, they have had a few people who fell way behind but no one has ever defaulted totally. Kathy has inquired with the State, but they kicked it back to the local level. Cindy and Kent agreed that they needed to work on a policy. It was decided that Jen and Kathy should draft something simple and bring it back to the Board.

- **Brandy Brow Shrub Removal:**

The shrubbery at Brandy Brow has become over grown and somewhat blocks the view when driving. Skipper would like to check with the State and see about cleaning up the area. He wonders if it should all just be removed. Jen has spoken with the Tree Warden who will look to see if they can be trimmed and maintained, or should be removed. Jen mentioned that the MA DOT doesn't acknowledge they own the area and it would take 6 months or more to do anything thru them and suggested they don't bother contacting them. Cindy also mentioned an area across the street just past the Whiting's heading towards Alleys that is difficult to see around. The others do not have issue with removing or trimming and Jen will look into it.

Topics Not Anticipated:

- Jen updated the Board on the remote meeting situation. The Governor has filed legislation to extended legislation allowing remote meeting participation among other things beyond the state of emergency, basically till September or November. She's not clear yet if it will be optional or a mandate yet. She is also still working on getting the equipment for hybrid meetings in the meeting room. She anticipates by the end of summer they will have a new Open Meeting Law in place.

Old Business: There was none.

Correspondence:

- A letter from the Complete Streets Committee thanking the Select Board and the Police Chief for the installation of the flashing speed signs.

Public Comment: There was none.

Executive Session: Fire Chief Contract Negotiations

- Skipper feels there are two issues with the contract; the actual language of the contract and the monetary. On the issue of the wording Jen has sent them some sample contract documents to look at and Greg has sent a draft document too. He suggested that rather than the whole board going over the wording that he and Jen draft something together and send it to the to the others to look at. Then they can have a separate discussion about salary. Jen is ok with it and thinks it's a good idea. Cindy and Kent agreed with the idea. In regards to the salary Skipper says as usual, he thinks they should discuss in public session and feels there is no need for executive session. He doesn't believe there would be any harm to the public to hear their negotiations. The others agreed.

Cindy had made the motion to go into Executive session. Kent seconded. After the discussion, they both decided to rescind their motion and second. No Vote Taken.

The salary discussion then followed also in public session, with Greg Pachico present. \$120 thousand is the maximum budgeted and suggested by the former chief. Skipper thought that was an appropriate amount. It is comparable to the salary for other towns of the same size. There was minimal discussion and the others agreed.

Cindy made the motion to offer \$120 thousand for the first year of the contract. Kent seconded. Roll Call: all in favor.

As Greg was present they asked him if he wanted to accept the offer at that time or wait. He accepted. They also discussed his next step, approval and signing of contract and he was told that they would finalize the contract hopefully next week or the week after at the most. They also discussed the transition from Manny to Greg. Greg says he will be ready by the first of July and will be riding with Manny for at least the last week of June. Jen said the folks at Town Hall are standing by to help also. They will also plan a swearing in ceremony.

Skipper reminded everyone that the meeting next week would be at 5 pm as the Howes House site visit would be happening at 4 pm.

With no further business Cindy made the motion to adjourn. Kent seconded. Roll Call: all in favor.

Adjourned (approximately) 5:16 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant