

*Approved 6/14/23*  
**Town of West Tisbury**  
**Select Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, May 31, 2023 4:30 pm**  
**Via Zoom**

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

**Also present for part or all of the meeting:** Greg Pachico, Kelly McCracken, Angie Gompert, Mary Devine, Signe Benjamin, Alexandra Pratt, Phillippe Jordi, Ernie Thomas, 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 -May 24, 2023**

There were no corrections or edits offered.

*Jessica moved to approve the minutes of May 24<sup>rd</sup>, 2023. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.*

**New Business:**

- **District Attorney Galibois Update:**

D.A. Galibois was unable to attend and will be rescheduled

- **Kelly McCracken re: COLA Increase for Retirees:**

Skipper began by explaining the conflict of interest and then temporarily passed on the chair position to Jessica as the only member of the board who did not have interest in this item. Jessica invoked the Rule of Necessity which would allow them to take action on the matter. Skipper and Cindy both disclosed their conflict which was that they would receive an increase in their pensions if this is passed. Kelly then explained the request that needs to be approved by the County Commissioners and also at the town level. The money would need to be paid by the end of FY 2023

*Jessica moved to approve the COLA Increase for Retirees. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.*

- **Mary Devine Re: Land Offer Map 10 lot 70:**

Mary owns a small piece of land in the Great Plains area that is deemed unbuildable and is offering it back to the town at market rate. Jen said that the town owns a few of the small lots in the area and another neighbor owns multiple lots but as the ownership is rather checker-board like, no one can combine them and do anything with them. She believes that it may be possible to work with the neighbor to combine lots in both their and the towns favor to get

usable lots for both. Skipper wondered if the Affordable Housing Committee should get involved, but Jen pointed out that as they are between Administrative Assistants right now it may be too much for them to take on. It was decided that Jen would contact the other lot owner to see if they are interested and they will proceed from there. No action taken.

- **Angie Gompert Re: Cameras Facing Equipment:**

The VTA would like to install a camera on the back side of town hall facing their new equipment. No one had a problem with it but it was suggested they notify the Historic District.

*Cindy moved to allow the VTA to install 1 camera on the back side of Town Hall facing the new VTA equipment. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.*

- **VCS Event Permit: Grange 6/20/23 5:30-7:30:**

Signe explained the event. It is their annual meeting, 60-80 people, no retail sales, free and open to the public with minimal food. They have already spoken with the Board of Health.

*Jessica moved to approve the Event Permit for VCS on 6/20/23 at the Grange Hall. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.*

- **Conservation Commission – Associate Appointment Ernie Thomas:**

Ernie was present and thanked the board for their consideration. He's also on the MV Commission. He was thanked and welcomed by the board.

*Jessica moved to appoint Ernie Thomas as Associate Member to the Conservation Commission. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.*

- **IHT Request for Application for \$500k Grant:**

Phillipe explained that IHT is applying for a grant for the town for the 401 State Rd. project. They need a Letter of Support from the town which he has drafted. There were no questions, but Jessica pointed out that the dates were wrong. Phillipe will get that fixed. Skipper asked who would be in charge of the money? If they get the money the town will get it and pay out the bills.

*Cindy moved to authorize the Town Administrator to sign a LOS for IHT and file the grant application on behalf of the 401 State Rd project. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.*

- **Vote to Accept Library Foundation Donation \$65,000:**

- **Vote to Accept Friends of the Library Donation \$18,000:**

Skipper read the letters and Alexandra thanked the 2 groups for all the work they do. She also mentioned that the annual book sale would be happening under a tent at the WT School in late July.

*Jessica moved to accept the Library Foundation Donation of \$65,000 and the Friends of the Library Donation of \$18,000. Cindy seconded. Roll call vote; All in favor.*

- **Legal Expenses – Need for Further Funding. Vote Either Reserve Fund or Line Item Transfer:**

Jen's legal line is now in deficit and there are still more bills to be paid in June. If they choose to do the Reserve Fund Transfer it will deplete that account and it still needs to be replenished at the special town meeting. There is \$ 20,000 in the health care insurance line item so they could transfer the money between lines. Skipper is uncomfortable with the line transfer as he feels that would go against what the taxpayers voted for. It was decided a line transfer was the better option.

*Cindy moved to approve a Line Item Transfer for \$20,000 to cover legal expenses. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: Jessica and Cindy in favor; Skipper nay (2-1-0)*

- **Vote to Accept Fireman's Association Gift: ATV & Res-Q Trailer:**

Greg was there to represent the Fireman's Association and explained the donation. It would be used with a stokes basket already purchased and would benefit all the First Responders. The board thanked the association for the very generous donation.

*Cindy moved to accept the donation of an ATV & Res-Q Trailer from the Fireman's Association. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.*

- **Manter Floating Pier Permits: #'s 70, 104, 174 Pond View Farm Rd:**

Skipper stepped down as chair again and Jessica took over. These are annual permits.

*Cindy moved to grant the pier permits at #'s 70, 104, 174 Pond View Farm Rd. Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: Jessica and Cindy in favor; Skipper abstained. (2-0-1)*

- **Vote to Approve Programmable Sign on Old County Rd for Town Mtg Notice:**

Skipper would like to arrange to borrow a flashing road sign to advertise the Special Town meeting to be placed in front of the West Tisbury School. Everyone was OK with the idea. Skipper will look into it. No action taken.

### **Topics Not Anticipated:**

- Jen mentioned that the rig has arrived and they will start drilling for the PFAS testing tomorrow.
- She also reminded everyone again about the Special Town at the West Tisbury School on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 7PM..

**Old Business:** There was none.

### **Correspondence:**

- **D. Paulnock resignation from the Conservation Commission:**

Donna was thanked for her time served.

*Cindy moved to accept resignation of Donna Paulnock from the Conservation Commission.  
Jessica seconded. Roll call vote: All in favor.*

**Public Comment:** There was none.

*With no further business Cindy moved to adjourn. Jessica seconded. Roll Call vote: All in favor,*

*Meeting adjourned at 5:08 pm*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Janice Haynes  
Administrative Assistant*