

~Approved 7/1/20~
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
June 17, 2020 4:40 pm
Virtual meeting

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

Also Present: Bruce Stone, Susanna Sturgis, Tara Whiting-Wells, Michael Bellissimo, Laura Silber, Whit Griswald, Rise Terney, John Rau, Rich Salzberg, Will Sennott

Cindy called the meeting to order at 4:40 pm

Cindy read the Notice of Intention to consider reducing the quorum.

Skipper motioned to make the quorum for ATM 30 which is roughly 10%. Kent Healy second. Roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

Cindy skipped down the Agenda to Absentee Ballots and asked Tara to speak. She reported on the numbers she has received so far, which is up from a normal election and reminded folks of deadlines for getting applications in and absentee ballots back to her.

Minutes:

Skipper motioned to approve the Minutes of May 27, 2020 Kent Healy second. Roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

Minutes of June 3rd are taken under advisement.

New Business:

- **Diversity Statement:**

Kent said he read it and agreed with everything written there, but noted that he's not sure the Supreme Court recognizes Towns as people and thinks the wording is incorrect or awkward where it says the town recognizes, believes or pledges. He would like to change the wording to 'the Board of Selectmen believes...'. If it says the Town then he believes the people would have to vote. Skipper agreed. Cindy suggested that everywhere it says Town of West Tisbury the wording be changed to the Board of Selectmen of the Town of West Tisbury. The others agreed. Cindy also wanted to change some wording.

Kent also believes it's too long. Cindy disagreed that to be clear in their commitment she believes the words need to be said. Michael Bellissimo suggested including some wording that he and Dan Waters had talked about. Susanna Sturgis had suggestions too. There was more discussion regarding the Task Force. Whit suggested the statement be

read at ATM and gotten to the press. Cindy also suggested it be displayed prominently on the town website. After a bit more discussion, the changes were agreed to. Jen made the amendments.

Skipper motioned to adopt the resolution as amended. Kent Healy second. Roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

Covid-19 Update:

- **1/12th budget approval:** Bruce explained that this is a contingency plan in case ATM doesn't happen next week and we do not have an annual budget approved by June 30th. He made an estimate of a spending plan that is in most cases 1/12th of the expense line from this year or next years personnel lines. He explained some of the exceptions where full amounts are due at the beginning of the FY. If they vote to approve, it then has to go to the Town Clerk to be certified then sent to the state.

Skipper motioned to approve the spending plan as described in the memorandum provided by Bruce (attached). Kent Healy second. Roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

- **Town Line entry signs:**
Jen said these were the signs that Susanna had brought up a couple of weeks ago and showed a picture. She asked if the Selectmen would like them at the entrance of West Tisbury, should she order them? They would cost about \$40.00 each. Skipper thinks that they won't serve a useful purpose, people don't notice signs. Maybe at the airport point of entrance. Cindy agreed and thought that because they now have wider spread testing people could get tested and prove negative and not have to quarantine for 14 days. Laura suggested signs about masks and social distancing instead. They liked that idea better, agreed that they do not want the sign Jen proposed and agreed to come back to this and look at other signage that is being worked on by another committee.
- **State Road Restaurant request for outside seating:**
Jen said they were going to postpone that item. They have a special permit that only allows indoor alcohol so it is going before the ZBA first.
- **Charter school request to use the Ag Hall for 8th grade graduation:**
On hold because Jen had questions and has not heard back from them.
- **Dukes Country Regional Housing Authority Appointment: Rise Terney**
She would be filling the position that Mike Bellissimo resigned from. The term would expire in 2021.
Skipper motioned to appoint Rise Terney to fill the vacancy on the Dukes Country Regional Housing Authority. Kent Healy second. Roll call vote was unanimous in favor.

Topics the Chair did not anticipate:

Jen asked that one of the Selectmen should speak at ATM regarding Article 7, the VTA if questions come up. Cindy suggested it be Skipper. He agreed.

Jen also said she went to the first part of Oak Bluffs ATM to see how it went and is confident that with just a few small adjustments they have a pretty good plan in place. She thinks its going to go just fine. Parking will be at Sunset Lake with some parking available closer for handicap. Oak Bluffs will be providing a police detail to help people cross the street and direct traffic. More discussion about seating. Tara mentioned they will have 3 entrances for check in to keep things moving quicker.

Public Comment:

Whit urged the Selectmen to consider asking WT Chief Mincone to review Police training as the chief in Chilmark has said in the MV Times he was going to do. He believes the policing in West Tisbury is terrific but in regard to the national situation, to get in front of any complaints that may come their way is time well spent. Skipper says that the chief is already working on updating policies as we speak.

Skipper made the motion to adjourn. Kent second. Roll Call: all in favor.

Adjourned 5:39 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant