

Approved 9/1/21
Town of West Tisbury
Select Board Meeting – jointly with the Finance Committee, Planning Board, Parks & Recreation Committee, Board of Health, Board of Assessors, and Library Trustees
Wednesday August 18, 2021 4:30 pm
Via Zoom

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

Also present for part or all of the meeting: Representatives from the Finance Committee, Planning Board, Parks & Recreation Committee, Board of Health, Board of Assessors, and Library Trustees, Atty. Jack Collins, Omar Johnson; Health Agent, Matt Gebo, Cathy Minkiewicz, James Klingensmith, Louisa Hufstader, Rich Saltzberg, and other members of the public that did not speak.

After determining that each of the boards or committees had a quorum present. Skipper called the meeting to order at approximately 4:30 pm and went to New Business before approving. minutes.

New Business:

- **Vaccine mandate - jointly with the Finance Committee, Planning Board, Parks & Recreation Committee, Board of Health, Board of Assessors, and Library Trustees**

Skipper started by disclosing that he is a long-term Town employee but he does not feel it will affect the discussion. All of the other committees or boards called their meetings to order also. This was to be a discussion to vote to mandate Town employees to be vaccinated. Omar Johnson, Health Agent gave a synopsis of the current Covid situation on island and the vaccination stats. Each of the boards or committees were given a chance to ask questions or make statements. The public was also given time to ask questions. There were questions about implementation and exemptions and how to deal with them thru interactive process. Atty. Jack Collins explained the recommended ways to do this. Mike Colaneri, (BOA) is not a fan of mandates and dislikes forcing an employee to get vaccinated when it was not a requirement for hire. Robert Hauk, Library Trustee had a question about how the exemption policy will be monitored. It was explained that it was a one-time process for approval. Determining if they can still work will be decided on a case by case basis. Lisa Amols (Parks and Recreation Dept.) suggested weekly or bi weekly testing as another option which generated more conversation. Would twice weekly testing over-run the system? Jessica Miller (BOH) felt that vaccination is a proactive step while testing in place of vaccine would be a retroactive step. It was pointed out that elected officials are not covered by this mandate at this time but the Governor is considering mandating for all State employees. Kathy Logue

suggested that the person to field exemption requests be one person for all of the boards, possibly someone from outside the Town Hall, but in the end, all agreed that the Town Administrator be the one. There were questions about privacy and HIPPA laws. Atty. Jack Collins said that HIPPA applies to the medical profession and that this is covered by the ADA for confidentiality. Atty. Jack Collins was asked to draft a motion for all the boards to vote as follows:

I move that (this board or committee) adopt a rule that as a condition of employment, all employees, which includes volunteers and interns under our jurisdiction, shall show proof of full COVID vaccination by Sept. 30th, 2021, and that any requests for a medical or religious exemption be submitted to the office of the Town Administrator.

For the Select Board: Kent moved the motion as stated above. Cindy seconded. Roll Call Vote of the Select Board: all in favor (3)

For the Finance Committee: Greg moved the motion as stated above. Cathy seconded. Roll Call Vote of the Finance Committee: all in favor (4)

For the Planning Board: Amy moved the motion as stated above. Leah seconded. Roll Call Vote of the Planning Board: all in favor (3)

For the Board of Assessors: Maria moved the motion as stated above. Michael seconded. Roll Call Vote of the Board of Assessors: 1 in favor, 1 opposed -Motion fails

For the Parks & Recreation Department: Hap moved the motion as stated above. John seconded. Roll Call Vote of the Parks & Recreation Department: all in favor (4)

For the Board of Health: Erik moved the motion as stated above. Jessica seconded. Roll Call Vote of the Board of Health: all in favor (2)

For the Library Trustees: Robert moved the motion as stated above. Emily seconded. Roll Call Vote of the Library Trustees: all in favor (5)

Skipper thanked all, excluding the Board of assessors, for adopting the resolution on behalf of all the people who live here and all the visitors.

All of the other boards and committees adjourned their meetings. The subject of the Board of Assessors who did not vote to adopt will be taken up at the next meeting.

Minutes to approve – August 11, 2021:

There was one typo pointed out and one change to wording that will be fixed.

Cindy moved to approve the Minutes of August 11, 2021 as amended. Kent seconded. Roll Call Vote: all in favor

New Business continued:

- **Committee to Create a MV Housing Bank Discussion:**

Laura Silber was unable to attend and Cindy wanted more time to read the info sent so item was tabled till next week.

Topics Not Anticipated:

There were none.

Old Business:

- **Howes House Feasibility Study:**

It will be on next agenda as it was getting late, but Kathy pointed out that people need to think about the ways to narrow the focus to solicit more interest. She will write up her ideas in an email and send to Jen to send to the committee and also Chilmark and Aquinnah.

Correspondence:

- Atty. Jack Collins Disclosure of Appearance of Conflict of Interest
- Conservation Commission re: Use of Ag. Hall for Covid Testing

Public Comment:

There was just a couple of clarification questions that were answered.

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

Adjourned approximately 6:00 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant