

Approved 9/23/20
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
September 16, 2020 4:40 pm
Virtual meeting

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

Also Present: Kathy Logue, Tara Whiting-Wells, Matt Gebo, Collins Havener, John Kaye, Michael Jacobs, Tony Cordray, Kristina West, Maia Coleman, John Rau, Nicola Blake, Tony Omer, Rich Saltzberg

Cindy called the meeting to order at 4:40pm

First thing before meeting: Cindy mentioned that John Early has passed. Cindy said that she had put together a statement for the papers as Chairperson of the BOS. They observed a moment of silence. Kent said that he was a great guy and had really helped the town. Skipper said he had worked with him for many years and he would be missed.

Minutes: Skipper made a motion to approve the Minutes of September 9th. Kent seconded the motion. Roll Call: all in favor. Skipper asked that something more official than the statements in the minutes be drafted and sent to Mr. Haynes thanking him for his service.

Jen then introduced John Kaye who had been appointed to the ZBA a couple of weeks ago. He spoke a bit about himself and his connections to the island. He was thanked for volunteering and welcomed.

New Business:

- **Cemetery Superintendent Interviews:**

It was decided to remove them from the agenda and Skipper and Jen will do the interviews and come back to the board with their recommendations.

- **Town Clerk re: donation of old ballot boxes to the museum:**

Tara said she has two antique ballot boxes that are taking up space in her office and rather than putting them in storage where no one will see them she would like to donate them to the MV Museum. She has contacted them and they have expressed interest in having them. Skipper thinks it's a wonderful idea and everyone agreed.

Skipper made a motion to declare the ballot boxes surplus property to be donated to the MV Museum. Kent seconded. Roll Call: all in favor

- **Joint letter re: COVID:**

Jen said that in light of what had happened on Nantucket (an upswing of cases in the last few weeks which was tracked to trade workers) she had reached out to her counterparts in the other towns and they all wanted to send out a letter to remind people to stay cautious, but by thanking them for the good job they have done so far keeping Martha's Vineyard safe. She has drafted a letter and the other towns are mostly on board; a couple of them have just not met yet. She said that Island Health Care will sign on and also the Hospital. She has asked the papers to run a large, half page ad, and requested that they do it gratis, as its island wide info. Skipper said he would like to remove the direct reference to Nantucket and perhaps say 'other communities'. He also doesn't like using the word 'relax'. Jen said that the letter was written that way specifically, as MV and Nantucket are the only places that had a construction ban, and that Nantucket officials have admitted publicly that it was due to the trades. She said she has spoken to her counterpart on Nantucket and told her that she wanted to do this so they know about it.

Skipper made a motion to endorse the letter. Kent seconded. Roll Call: all in favor

- **Banner to promote the Census:**

Jen says there is a group requesting to hang a banner in town to promote the census. It is about 10' long and would be hung till about the end of October. There was discussion of where it should be hung in town. Skipper said he thinks it should be in the Cronig's area. There may be issues with hanging it here at the Town hall as its part of the Historic District. Jen said they do not have to decide where today, just need to vote to allow. Jen will speak to the Historic District committee.

Skipper made a motion to endorse and allow a banner to be hung in town promoting the Census, location to be determined. Kent seconded. Roll Call: all in favor

- **ACO with Dog Bite Complaint:**

Tony Cordray ACO said that the issue came up this afternoon so was not on the agenda but needed to be dealt with. He said that he had gotten a call about a dog bite by a dog owned by Mr. Higgins, who had been part of a hearing in 2016 for the same dog. At that time, the board voted to say that the dog was never to come back to West Tisbury, and if he did, was to be leashed and muzzled when not kept in a 6' enclosure. The dog is back and bit someone on a trail in the State forest a couple of weeks ago. The victim lives off island and went home before making the complaint. The dog is now in quarantine at home in West Tisbury. Tony would like the board to advise him how to proceed. It was asked if the sanctions from 2016 were still in effect. Tony believes that yes they are; there was no expiration date given. Skipper said they should send a letter stating the sanctions from 2016 and request he attends

a meeting with the Selectmen next week. Skipper also asked if Tony had asked the victim about any medical bills not covered. Tony will be in contact with him and ask.

- **Complete Streets request for easements on Old County Road:**

Tony Omer said that the committee wanted to send an informational letter to the abutters asking them if they will discuss extending the path on Old County. They may eventually need an easement, but bare not asking for it yet. They are looking for support from the board and asking if they have any suggestions to add to the letter. Jen said that one of the concerns was that if an easement was to happen it may impact taxes for that particular piece of property. And if the path is placed further from the road it will reduce greenspace, which was a concern that had been brought up in the past. Kent thinks the State will require the path to be 10' wide and asphalt which concerns him. Tony says he believes the State will allow a narrower path, and that the committees would like to create more greenspace. Their goal is to make the road safer for drivers, bikes, and walkers. Skip is ok with the letter going out but is also concerned about the visual impact as he is also an abutter. No vote needs to be taken and the board is ok with the letter being sent as is.

Old Business:

- **Farmers Market date extension:**

Skipper said that he had spoken with Town Council and expressed his concerns and he was now ok with agreeing to extend the dates. Council had recommended that they vote to extend for this year and then have another meeting to discuss the issues for next year. Collins said he would like to be part of that discussion and Cindy said that it would be done in a public meeting. Michael Jacobs spoke in support of the Farmers Market and thinks it was run well and from a medical point of view he thinks it is very safe and wonderfully done.

Skipper made the motion to approve the extension of dates for this year. Kent seconded. Roll Call: all in favor

- **STM Warrant re: vote to return the TTA article removed in error and vote to approve and sign warrant:**

Jen said that they had voted to open a close it last week but since then she had realized she had removed the Tri Town Ambulances article regarding the new TTA facility in Chilmark. She is asking the board to put it back on the warrant and re-vote its approval.

Skipper made a motion to re-open the warrant ad back the article and then close the STM Warrant. Kent seconded. Roll Call: all in favor

Skipper thanked Jen for catching the error.

- **Phase 3 Town Hall re-Opening Plan:**

Jen said that she had met with Town Hall staff today. At their suggestions, she has a few small changes made to the plan. In general the staff is in support, but it is not unanimous. Some people still have concerns about being in the Town Hall. Jen thinks they need to move forward and should pass Phase 3. Those with concerns will need to apply for a waiver with the BOH Skip asked what happens if a waiver is denied. Jen said then they would use their personal time if they are not working, Skipper believes that staff that works for specific boards or committees should be told by their board what they can and cannot do. Jen noted the Personnel Bylaw prohibits working from home. Cindy suggested they should go forward with the plan and deal with each individual concern as they come up. Kent said that if the BOH says it's safe then they should encourage people to come back to work. Skipper thought the waiver requests should perhaps go to the Personnel Board. Cindy pointed out that the BOH knows the most about the current situation. Jen added if the waiver requests went to the Personnel Board they also would be discussed in public, which was not really the goal.

Skipper made a motion to the Phase 3 re-opening plan, effective starting Monday September 21st. Kent seconded. Roll Call: all in favor

Thanks to Jen, Omar, Kathy, Maria and the rest of the working group for their hard work.

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

Adjourned 5:46 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant