

Minutes West Tisbury CPC meeting 10/10/2007

Approved 10/24/2007

Present: Sean Conley, Al DeVito, Caroline Flanders, Ginny Jones, Dale Julier, Bruce Keep, Susan Phelps, Peter Rodegast; Tony Nevin, Admin Asst. Absent: Lesley Eaton.

Also present were Michelle Jones, MV Shellfish Group; Kathy Logue, Jim Osmondsen, and Bea Phear, Town Hall Renovation Committee; and Glenn Hearn, Selectman.

Caroline Flanders called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

The minutes of September 26, 2007 were reviewed, corrected, and unanimously approved.

In response to questions and requests, Tony Nevin reported that

- 1) The town can vote to modify or discontinue the CPA surcharge at its annual meeting in 2010; Kathy Logue explained that no action is required to continue the present CPA surcharge.
- 2) CPA reserve funds are deposited in interest-bearing accounts; to date, about \$35,000 has been earned.
- 3) Tony circulated draft budget summary sheets. The format was acceptable but some numbers need to be checked for completeness and accuracy before the meeting on November 14.

The Committee then considered applications for eligibility received since September 26.

1) Application FY08-10 was received from Jill Bouck, Martha's Vineyard Museum, on October 3, but in fact had been sent by e-mail on September 21; the reason for its failure to be received on that date is unclear. Sean Conley explained that the request was designed to cover the expenses of two archeological associates for 6 months, and could be split in half for a 2-year project. Al DeVito moved that the application be approved, and Ginny Jones seconded; Peter Rodegast recused himself. The motion passed unanimously.

2) In connection with Application FY08-11, Michelle Jones – speaking on behalf of Tom Osmers, who had submitted the application on September 28 – described the need to establish the island as part of a “sector plan” with the New England Fisheries Management Council under the Magnussen-Stevens Act. Obtaining recognition for island fisheries would require financial support for presentations by islanders to various groups and regulatory bodies, and would be most effective if supported by historical data on small, owner-operated, sustainable fishing on Martha's Vineyard. The Committee inquired into the role of Tisbury Great Pond and James Pond in the fisheries, and challenged the eligibility for CPA funding of lobbying operations and/or non-mortgageable assets such as the wellbeing of the fishing community. Sean Conley moved to approve the proposal contingent on additional information about its possible benefits to West Tisbury. After extensive discussion, it was agreed that although preservation of the island's fishing community was very important, no action on this proposal could be taken until information on its eligibility was obtained from the Community Preservation Coalition and/or Nantucket. Al DeVito moved that consideration of the proposal be postponed until such additional information was available, Peter Rodegast seconded, and the motion passed unanimously. Caroline Flanders agreed to contact the Coalition on behalf of the Committee.

The meeting was then opened for discussion of eligible projects with applicants seeking to develop proposals for funding.

1) In connection with Application FY08-01, the Town Hall Renovation Committee, represented by Bea Phear, Jim Osmondsen, and Kathy Logue, sought to explore the Committee's reactions to several alternative versions of its proposal for funding. One option is to request authorization now for \$500,000 to be allocated toward debt service at the rate of \$100,000 per year for 5 years beginning in FY 2010.

Glenn Hearn asked whether it would be better to request the first \$100,000 now, but Kathy Logue explained that to maintain a roughly constant debt service level for the town, it was better to wait. Bea Phear suggested that the Town Hall Committee might request \$100,000 now and also \$750,000 per year for 5 years, which could be reduced at town meeting. Al Devito noted that any such request would consume a large fraction of CPA fund, and Kathy Logue noted that even after initial approval, the town could vote not to fund town hall renovation debt from CPA funds, in which case debt service on the bond might require raising town taxes. Tony Nevin distributed a memo summarizing information from the Community Preservation Coalition, which stated that if the town voted to reduce or discontinue CPA surcharges, the surcharge would nevertheless remain in effect until the bond obligation was fully discharged. Kathy Logue concurred, and noted that CPA historic-resources funding for Town Hall renovation was appropriate because Town Hall is a historic anchor; Ginny Jones reviewed its historic value and noted its relatively good physical condition. Caroline Flanders asked the Town Hall committee to submit whatever it regarded as its most favorable request, which could be reviewed and reconsidered after public hearings before town meeting. The renovation committee members left the meeting.

2) In connection with Application FY08-09, Mill Pond Dredging, Glenn Hearn submitted a draft of a proposal for funding and reported that the Selectmen wanted to place funds for permitting on the warrant for the special meeting scheduled for November 27. The Committee suggested that the proposal for funding be separated into two parts, with the first requesting funding for permitting to be submitted in time for Committee consideration before the special town meeting warrant deadline. During discussion, concern was expressed over the apparent haste to seek approval and the need to coordinate with the Capital Improvements Committee on town-wide, long-term priorities. Al DeVito suggested that a separate proposal now, for permitting only, would probably be favorably received by the Finance Committee. The Committee asked Glenn to present a revised proposal requesting funds for project permitting before the Committee's next meeting on October 24, at which time it will vote on the proposal for funding and devise an appropriate warrant article for the special town meeting. After further discussion of the basis for his estimates of dredging costs, Glenn left the meeting.

3) David Vigneault joined the meeting. In connection with the Rental Conversion project approved in FY07, Susan Phelps, Dale Julier, and David Vigneault described funding subsidies for two apartments in West Tisbury, and David presented an invoice for \$14180. David also reported on progress on expansion of the Sepiessa apartment cluster. Ginny Jones moved that the invoice be approved for payment, Al DeVito seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Glenn Hearn rejoined the meeting to urge rapid approval of the first (permitting) part of the dredging project so that it could appear on the warrant for the Special Town Meeting on November 27. Some members of the Committee questioned whether pressing ahead on a single item might compromise the CPA process and the annual budget cycle. It was noted that a special meeting of the Committee might be necessary to address Glenn's request in time to meet the warrant deadline. Caroline Flanders will contact Committee members if such a meeting is needed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tony Nevin, Admin Asst.