

Approved 3/5/08
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, February 20, 2008, 4:30 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Glenn Hearn, Skipper Manter, Dianne Powers, Jen Rand

Guests: Brian Athearn, Ann Nelson, Chuck Hodgkinson, Bruce Stone, R. Knabel, J. Shea, B&B Day, J. Ames, B. Potts, E. Mendenhall, C. Riggs

Minutes: *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 1/16/08, 1/23/08, 1/30/08 and 2/6/08. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was 1/6 SM & GH in favor, DP abstained; 1/23 Sm & GH in favor, DP abstained; 1/30 GH & DP in favor, SM abstained; 1/6 SM & DP in favor, GH abstained.*

Finance Forum: Dianne said she wanted to check in with the Board because when the finance forum was originally conceived it was, she thought, a chance for the BOS and FinComm to hear from the public on the town's finances, where we're headed, any questions they have on the budget process etc. She feels that since her meeting with Al DeVito and Richard Knabel this has changed. Glenn said he didn't understand why the panel was necessary, if the two Boards were available to answer questions from everyone in the audience it would avoid the problem of people feeling omitted from the panel, if the FinComm had certain constituents they wanted to hear from they could make sure those people knew about the forum. Skipper concurred and said he thought that it would be a Q&A session about the budget process and people could express their thoughts/concerns. Richard Knabel said this all came about because the Finance Committee sensed a disconnect between the votes taken at town meeting and what they heard from people at the post office. The FinComm was proposing a panel where different groups would be represented (the elderly, young people and the school constituency), Al would moderate and each person would be given 3-4 minutes to speak then there would be a give and take. Glenn said he failed to see the difference in input if everyone was in the audience. Dianne suggested that the forum begin with a presentation from Bruce and Kathy about the budget, the capital expenses and the impacts of capital expense on the town's long term financial picture. Glenn thought that was a good way to proceed. Dianne said Al could still moderate the discussion. Richard will bring that plan back to the FinComm for discussion.

FinComm Survey: Skipper asked if the survey was directed to voters? Richard said yes, he had gotten a suggestion to add a question on the survey if the respondent was a taxpayer. Skipper said he was concerned that some of the questions were open to interpretation as to their meaning, and the answers would likely also be open to interpretation. He also said the questions separating out the school but no other departments created an "us & them" situation. Richard said he wanted to pursue a statistical mailing method which would select a percentage of people in town. Glenn suggested everyone look through the survey and be prepared to finalize next week.

Mill Pond: Glenn asked for permission to apply for grants to dredge the pond. He said the town would only accept the money if the town okays the CPA money for permitting. Skipper and Dianne said that was fine but they wanted to see the applications before they were submitted.

VTA: Glenn said he had spoken to Alan Whiting last night as well as a few years ago and he was under the impression that the family does not want the busses to go into the cemetery lot. Dianne said that left only Fire Station 1 as an option. Skipper said he didn't want to give up on the cemetery lot yet. He noted there would need to be a road put in for the cemetery eventually so that would not be a huge change.

DAS MOU: *S. Manter motioned to sign the MOU with two changes: the word “equally” will be removed and it will be noted in the document that the Town of West Tisbury has only appropriated \$2,500 to this effort. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Skipper said he wanted to make sure that if West Tisbury participates in this project that the DAS company serves all of town and not just the “easy” parts along the main road.

Warrant: Jen ran through the new language for the County Articles, Skipper said he was only suggesting the language, the others could change it if they wanted. Diane said she was okay with the language change; she definitely wanted voters to have a chance to vote.