

Approved 10/8/08
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, September 17, 2008, 4:30 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Dianne Powers, Richard Knabel, Jen Rand

Guests: Al DeVito, Greg Orcott, Ginny Jones, E. Mendenhall, J. Ames, Barbara & Bob Day, B. Potts, J. Hickey

Minutes: *R Knabel motioned to approve the minutes of 9/3/08 with a clarification. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Finance Committee: Skipper said we were talking about the 2010 budget, and trying to roll the budget submittal deadline back to December 1st at 4:00 p.m. This will allow the Finance Committee and the BOS to have ample time for review of the budgets. Al asked about joint meetings. Skipper suggested that in January, February and March the BOS meet every other week (unless there was a compelling reason to meet, which would be accommodated) and on the alternate weeks they would post the meetings for Tuesdays with the Finance Committee. Richard said the two Boards needed to set budget guidelines. Al said that in general he felt town departments budgeted wisely, personnel costs are the town's biggest expense, he felt the Personnel Board should be involved from the beginning of the process. Skipper said that perhaps this year the town departments should be told that there would be no support for increased personnel or hours or reclassification of positions unless it was done through the classification study and a separate warrant article. Richard said one goal should be to not have any overrides. Bruce said that won't be an issue this year due to the amount of excess capacity.

Al said he believed our town was well run, but would be curious to know how we compare to other towns related to staffing. Bruce noted that the study would need to assure we were comparing equal job responsibilities. Dianne said she had done an informal study and for the most part we operate with fewer staff. Richard said our police department had more staff per population than off-island towns. Ginny said she would like more information about the emergency services budget (tri-town) and thought it should be in the town report. Skipper said he agreed, and the town report this year should also have more school budget breakdown. Al said he felt that only West Tisbury had a problem with the budget presentation, he wanted to meet with the other two towns to explain our concerns and perhaps get a change to the presentation format. Richard suggested that the number of warrant articles requesting money be limited, and perhaps in a cost saving measure the town could go to a 4 day 10 hour schedule in the winter. Skipper asked if the heating systems in the trailers could have the auto setbacks installed.

Mill Pond NOI Committee: Skipper said he wanted this appointment to be limited to writing the NIO for pulling weeds in the Mill Pond. Once it was written he felt it should be brought back to the BOS for approval prior to submittal. He suggested a committee of three for the moment, which could be expanded when needed.

R Knabel motioned to appoint Kent Healey, Craig Saunders and Bob Woodruff to the Mill Pond Committee to write the NOI for hand weeding in the Mill Pond. D. Powers seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Non-Motorize Transportation Committee: Skipper asked Bob Potts if a meeting had been set. Bob said no, Skipper asked Jen to help with this and attend the first meeting to explain the open meeting law and public documents etc.