

**Approved 2/24/10**  
**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY**  
**SELECTMENS MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 3, 2010, 4:35 p.m. – 6:05 p.m.**

**Present:** Selectmen Dianne Powers, Richard Knabel, Skipper Manter, Jen Rand

**Guests:** Nancy Gardella, John Christensen, Manny Estrella, Maria McFarland, Norm Perry, Jennifer Haynes, Brian Smith, Joanne Scott, Chuck Hodgkinson, Linda Hearn, Dan Waters, Joanne Scott, Glenn Hearn, Michael Colaneri, Janet Bank, Lynn Whiting, Jim Powell, Vicki Thurber, Jim Carter, Sandy Ray, B. Stone, K. Logue, E. Mendenhall, J. Hickey, B. Potts, S. Silk, B & B Day

Dianne asked for a moment of silence for Dan Prowten.

**Minutes:** *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 1/6/10, 1/13/10 & 1/20/10. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was DP & RK in favor for 1/6/10 and SM abstained, unanimous for 1/13/10 and RK & SM in favor for 1/20/10 and DP abstained.*

**Chamber of Commerce:** Nancy Gardella said she was asking the towns to divert a percentage of their rooms excise tax to the Chamber to supplement their budget. She said the State funds them and the funding has dropped from \$330K to \$106K. The Board noted that the town does not collect room excise tax and asked what amount the Chamber was asking for. Jim Carter said perhaps \$10,000. Skipper said he felt the island had enough tourists and did not wish to pay to bring more. Dianne said she thought the voters should be allowed to decide. Skipper said that if the voters did approve this the Chamber should follow totally open procedures just like the town. The Board then discussed a formula based on how much the excise tax would be were it collected. Mr. Carter said they figure about \$1000 per room. Jen was asked to find out what 20% of that number would be.

*R. Knabel motioned to put the article on the warrant for a sum of money to for the Chamber to promote the island with the phrase provided the other 5 towns also vote in the affirmative. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

**Fire Department:** Manny asked the Board to send thank you letters to the island fire departments and others who helped during the fire on January 30. Skipper said he appreciated all the Department did, the conditions created a tremendous challenge and the support from everyone in the community was appreciated. He also noted the value of the stress debriefing. Richard asked if there was anything the town could do to make fighting fires in the terrible cold easier, Manny said no. Dianne said the Board of Selectmen was available if the Department needed anything.

**Personnel Board:** Norm Perry said the classification study was done last year, but not in time for the warrant. The study is designed to review job descriptions and make sure they reflect the actual job, and then to grade them based on those descriptions. Richard asked why the classification scale changed from numbers to letters. Norm said it was to eliminate confusion between grades and steps. Richard also said he didn't believe the premise that the island was in competition for employees with the Cape and he was not sure the Executive Secretary position should be changed to Town Administrator. Dianne asked if that job had been evaluated and graded with that in mind and Maria said yes.

**Library:** Chuck Hodgkinson said the library has the opportunity for a grant from the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners, which would require that construction begin in the next three years. With this grant the town's share would be around \$1.3 - \$1.6 million. He said the Space Needs Committee had looked at maintaining a consistent level of debt, and moving the Library up would not slow down the development of a plan for the WTPD.

**Emergency Management:** John Christensen said he was budgeting for the Town to participate in a “Reverse 911” system (which is a brand name and may not be what is used). The cost to the Town would be around \$2,200. Skipper said this is a useful program that has a wide array of applications such as weather emergencies, lost persons, fire etc.

**Warrant Articles:** Jen told the Board that there was only one response to the RFP for the building inspections and the cost was \$34K without including the school. The Board asked her to revisit the scope of work, perhaps calling Donald Cronig for information.

Regarding the proposed scholarship fund, the Board said they didn’t have enough information and were open to researching it and putting it on next year’s warrant.

**Highway Superintendent Stipend:** Skipper said the Finance Committee was comfortable with the entire stipend increase being granted in one year, so he would like to follow that recommendation.

*S. Manter motioned to increase the Highway Superintendent’s stipend to \$17K. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was SM & DP in favor, RK abstained.*