

Approved 3/24/10
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, March 3, 2010, 4:30 p.m. – 6:15 p.m.

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

Guests: Ewell Hopkins, Philippe Jordi, David Vignault, Erik Hammarlund, B. Stone, E. Mendenhall, J. Ames, B&B Day, J. Hickey, B. Potts, S. Silk,

Minutes: *R. Knabel motioned to approve the minutes of 2/17/10. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Affordable Housing: Skipper said he had asked for the housing groups to come and explain their functions and the differences between the groups. David Vignault, Director of the Dukes County Regional Housing Authority, said they were chartered by the State in 1986 to address the housing needs of low and moderate income residents of Dukes County. He said that they are funded by the towns and support the town's housing efforts. Richard asked about limits to the rental assistance program. David said he felt it was even more important now that it was funded by the towns to explain how the program works and how long someone can use it, and qualifications etc. He said he was thinking there should be a committee to look at these issues made up of people appointed by town housing committees. Richard also asked about the appropriateness of using CPA funds since CPA money is project oriented, and is soft money. Shouldn't rental assistance money be a line item in the operating budget? David said the question had been addressed and it was considered an appropriate use.

Philippe Jordi, Director of the Island Housing Trust, said they were a non-profit formed as an offshoot of the Island Affordable Housing Trust as a development corporation. He said that in 2005 they became a land trust, so they not only develop projects but own land and hold leases. The Board is 24 members comprised of, in part, Selectmen and homeowners. Skipper asked if all financial information is available to the public. Philippe said yes. Skipper then asked for an explanation of the ground lease. Philippe said that the homeowners pay \$50 monthly for the lease and that covers the cost of monitoring by the Trust. He said the monthly fee is used in the calculation of housing price. He explained that by monitoring he meant primarily maintenance of the affordability. Skipper asked how the Trust dealt with affordability and inheritance. Philippe said there were no income guidelines but they must live in the house year-round and all sale restrictions remain.

Ewell Hopkins, Director of the Island Affordable Housing Fund, said they were an advocate for affordable housing needs on the Island. He said the lobby on Beacon Hill for housing support, the funded the housing needs study, they have helped with projects such as Morgan Woods, and they have helped fund other agencies programs. Richard pointed out that the rental assistance program was being turned over to the Towns as of July 1, 2010. Did the Fund anticipate initiating additional rental assistance, which would then also be turned over to the town to continue at some future date? Ewell said they cannot commit funds they don't have, but its an important program and if they have funding they will support it again.

Art: Jen said she had a request from a couple local artists to donate or loan art and the MV Art Association to hang art for some period of time. Richard said he had been approached with the suggestion that there should be a committee. Jen said she didn't think there was much for a committee to do at this time, but if the work became burdensome she would revisit the idea. The Board was in favor of adding more art to town hall.

School Window Repair Article: *S. Manter motioned to change the wording from raise and appropriate to Appropriate from the Fund Balance Reserved for Overlay Released by the Assessors for Expenditures. R, Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Police Station Building Study Committee: Richard said he still felt that Skipper had a conflict discussing the Police Station Building Study Committee so he asked if Skipper would contact the Ethics Commission and get a written ruling. Skipper said he had read the ethics rules and did not feel it was necessary.

Mill Pond Committee: Skipper said he had some questions about the CPA Mill Pond article as it says for dredging and he thought the Board should hear a report from the Committee. Jen will ask them to attend a meeting.