

Approved 3/2/11
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, February 9, 2011, 4:33 p.m. – 6:37 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Richard Knabel, Skipper Manter, Cindy Mitchell, Jennifer Rand.

Guests: Julienne Turner, Gail Tipton, Prudy Burt, Maria McFarland, Janet Bank, B&B Day, P. Brannen, B. Potts, S. Silk

Minutes: *C. Mitchell motioned to approve the minutes of 1/26/11 with edits. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was in favor RK & CM in favor, SM abstained.*

Access to Counsel - Conservation Commission: Maria said the revetment case has two different tracks; the Department of Environmental Protection and State Superior Court. The DEP had issued a permit for a shorter revetment than had been applied for at the local level. The Board had ten days to file and appeal to maintain their rights while the applicant came back to the town for a review of the shorter revetment. The Appeal would be stayed until the local permit issue was resolved. The estimate for this was under \$5,000.

S. Manter motioned to authorize access to counsel for up to \$5,000 to file an appeal as explained. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

MVTV: Julienne Turner, Director of Martha's Vineyard Television, gave the Board a summary of the results of the phone survey recently conducted. She said that 73% of the responders subscribe to Comcast and that in general people were not unhappy with Comcast. She said that 56% of respondents watch MVTV regularly. She said that MVTV wishes to increase capacity by building a larger facility that would include a bathroom, which they don't currently have, a meeting room and classroom and upgrading old equipment. She said MVTV also wants to install robotic cameras in the Selectmen's meeting rooms to allow for live broadcast of meetings online. She said that MVTV had \$450,000 in their reserve fund, which they intend to use for the expansion and equipment upgrades. Richard said he thought MVTV was doing a very good job and he supported their continued work.

Cake Walk Permit: *S. Manter motioned to authorize the "Cake Walk" on 3/19/11 at the Agricultural Hall. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Town Administrator Vacation Carry-Over: *S. Manter motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to carry over 57 hours of vacation time. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Estrella Affordable Housing Covenants: *S. Manter motioned to sign the Estrella's amended housing covenants, required as part of their refinancing. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

School Building Repairs: Richard said he had met with Dr. Weiss and told him the Town wanted a building committee assigned to the school repairs. Skipper asked if the Board had discussed and voted on this. Richard said no. Skipper said he didn't think it was a bad idea, but he thought the Board should have discussed it prior to Richard setting up a meeting with Dr. Weiss. Cindy said the Capital Improvements Committee (CIPC) had coincidentally had the same discussion and came to the same conclusion. She added the CIPC had also discussed a funding mechanism and thought a longer term debt reflecting the life of the work would work with our other funding plans, and that it probably made sense to fix everything that needed fixing all at once.

Access to Counsel – Planning Board: *S. Manter motioned to authorize the Planning Board access to counsel to discuss a property in town that had been turned into a condo. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Police Department Building Article: Jen asked the Board if they intended to proceed with the article to fund the next phase of the Police Building project. Cindy said yes, she thought the article should specify the Public Safety Building site. Richard asked if the article should specify the size of the building. Cindy said the previous Site Planning Committee had not been tasked with determining the final size of the building; the next committee would make that decision. Richard said he wanted to retain the right of the Selectmen to comment on building size.

C. Mitchell motioned to accept the recommended site of the Public Safety Building as the site of a new police station. R. Knabel seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was RK & CM in favor, SM abstained.

Community Preservation Act (CPA) Percentage Change: Skipper said he would be in favor of reducing the CPA tax to .01%, when the State was matching 100% he was in favor of the tax, but not any more. He said the projects that are funded could be paid for in the usual manner of a vote at town meeting without taxing people prior to having a need for the money. Cindy asked if the article could be worded to “reduce” the percentage and then generate a discussion on town meeting floor. Jen will work with Counsel to write the language.

Sidewalk in Front of Garcia's: Jen asked the Board if they wanted to propose brick or asphalt. The price is not substantially different. Skipper said historically all the sidewalks in town were asphalt. Cindy said she preferred brick. The Days said they were worried about bricks heaving and causing someone to fall. The Board will ask the Historic District to weigh in.

Residential Tax Exemption Ballot Question: Jen explained the because of the time the ballot was presented to the Board there were two choices on how to proceed, either the

petitioner needed signatures from ten percent of the voters in town or the Board of Selectmen would have to put the question on the ballot themselves in whatever format they wished. Cindy said that the petition had been withdrawn. Skipper noted that they had hoped to be able to discuss this with not only voters but non-voting tax payers. The Board will host a meeting about this later in the year when both voting a non-voting taxpayers are able to attend.

TriTown Ambulance: Richard discussed the outcome of the joint Boards of Selectmen and TriTown Committee discussing a change to the governance of TriTown. He said they discussed making a change after the new chief had been in place for six months. He said that the Selectmen would be included in the final Chief interviews. He said that he thought the changes to the Committee should happen immediately, that TriTown needed strong guidance. Skipper said he agreed it was left that the three Boards would meet again after the Chief is hired. Cindy said she did not think it was left that way.

Library Trustees: Skipper asked that the Library Trustees be invited to a selectmen's meeting to discuss the size and cost of the proposed new building. Jen will call them.

DeVito Thank You Letter: *S. Manter motioned to send a letter to Al DeVito thanking him for his service to the Town. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Executive Session: *C. Mitchell motioned to go into Executive Session to discuss land acquisition negotiation and not to return to regular session. S. Manter seconded the motion. A roll call vote was conducted with RK & CM in favor, SM opposed.*