

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 11/15/2011
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Jim Newman, Chairman, Spencer Booker, Beverly Wright

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator; June Manning, Vineyard Power President Richard Andrade, Police chief Randhi Belain, Sgt. Paul Manning, Gary Robinson.

-Minutes from past meetings were reviewed. Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes from October 18th. Beverly seconded.

The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes from November 8th. Jim seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor with one abstention. The motion passed.

-1st on the agenda was the appointment of Gary Robinson as the Town's new Emergency Management Director. Jim commented on Gary's past experiences in the private sector with this type of management. Gary said he was looking forward to working with the town and thanked Adam and Randhi for interviewing and recommending him for the position.

Beverly made a motion to appoint Gary Robinson as the Town's Emergency Management Director. Spencer seconded.

The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-Next on the agenda was the Tri-Town ambulance service agreement. Jim explained that a new agreement has been reached but the attempt to reduce the formula for the cost of the service to the town because of the limited use has failed. He said that purchase of new equipment and the manpower needed on a 24 hour basis to run the 3 ambulances could not be mitigated. There was discussion about the Selectmen signing the agreement without town voter approval. It was decided that since the only change was the makeup of the advisory committee to Tri-Town and no change in the 1/3rd budgeted share, the Selectmen could sign off on the amended agreement. Board members signed the document and gave it to Adam to send to Chilmark's Board for their signatures.

-Next on the agenda was a review of the RFP for the Town Landfill's solar array project. Questions were raised by the three board members about Vineyard Power's proposal. Richard Andrade spoke of how the town will benefit from produced electricity to pay its own bills and how money will accrue in reserve for future use after the ten year lease expires or if a decision was made to dismantle the system at the end of the ten year lease. There was discussion about language in the proposal including toxic waste discovery, the project engineer's professional liability, manufacturer's warranties, contractual waivers, interconnection permit easement and 3rd party mediation. Adam and Richard talked about the sale of electricity to the town from the system remaining cost neutral. Jim talked about the project's timeline to get started. Richard said the system's projected cost is \$330,000 project and the capital is in place. He said private investors have money invested with his company and are looking to do the project for individual tax benefits. There was discussion about a deadline for available tax credits that have to be utilized by the end of the calendar year. Richard stated that if 5% of the project is expended by December 31st, the 30% cash grant program would be available to the investors. Jim said the advantage of both RFP's is that the Town does not have to lay out any funds. The Town leases the land to the installer who pays a monthly rent that is held in

escrow for ten years. The Town purchases the electricity from the provider at the same rate as NSTAR's at the end of ten years owns the system that can then be a revenue source for the town. There was discussion about the need to have a Town Meeting and vote to accept the use of the landfill for the array. Adam spoke of how the language of the article on the May warrant was amended on the floor so that town residents need only to be informed of how a photovoltaic array system can be installed at the landfill and not to have to vote to allow it. Adam stated that he has asked for Town Counsel's opinion whether or not there needs to be a vote in lieu of the fact that there is no financial outlay by the town. Spencer opined that if there's a development of town property, there should be a vote. There was discussion about having informational sessions and/or a public meeting to inform residents. Beverly made a motion to accept Vineyard Power's proposal pending Counsel's opinion on town voter approval of the project. Spencer seconded.

The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Under Old Business, Laurie Perry discussed the completed judiciary agreement and how it came to fruition. She explained how the police and the Tribe's Judiciary Court will work together on serving summonses, evictions and other legal matters on tribal lands.

Spencer made the motion to accept the Standard Operating Procedures between the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head/Aquinnah and the Town of Aquinnah. Beverly seconded.

The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-The Board next discussed Executive Session. Jim said that on occasion there is a need to go into the session and that to make sure it is posted 48 hours in advance. The Board talked about having executive session always included on the bi-weekly BOS agendas so that if there is a need to go into private discussion, it has already been posted. Jim stated that although the agenda would have "executive session" included in general terms, if the Board did have to go into it, there would be a statement why the Board goes into the session prior to doing so. Adam stated that West Tisbury always has on its agenda after "public correspondence" an executive session. Spencer asked that Adam contact the Attorney General's office to find out the legality of doing it for each meeting.

-Adam updated the rental of the space at Airport Storage for town archived files. Jim has signed off on a contract to rent a 10' wide X 5' deep X 10' high space that is temperature controlled for \$94.00 a month. Adam said if the lease is paid in advance, the town gets one month for free.

-The Board took up the matter of the road sanding contract. Adam showed it had been advertised and that there was only one bid. It was from Serusa Built & Sons and there charges are the same as last year.

Spencer made a motion to approve the road sanding contract bid from Serusa Built & Sons. Beverly seconded.

The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-Adam updated the screening process for the Tax Title Associate position. He asked if one member of the Board could be on the interview committee. Jim said he would participate.

-Adam reported that he was working on a new job description for the Fire Chief. There was discussion about the different job responsibilities Walter had and still has in addition to being the Town's Fire chief. The Board decided that they want to review the job description 1st before advertising for the job.

-There was a report that performance evaluations were being completed and Adam has had several interviews with department heads to discuss job performances.

-Jim talked about the Board having a selectmen's code of conduct for when they are together or apart for the benefit of everyone involved in Town Hall and for the Town in general. A copy of the guidelines would be put by Jim in the Selectmen's mailboxes.

In other business, Beverly brought up the Town Hall finance team meetings. She had concerns about the members of the team having different opinions on financial reporting deadlines. She wants to see a timeline on when reports are due by the Dept. of Revenue. Adam said he can provide her with that timeline. There was discussion about the timeliness of certain reports.

Beverly made a motion to adjourn. Spencer seconded.

The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting ended at 6:40 pm.