

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting 2/21/2012  
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

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

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator; Town Counsel Ron Rappaport, Attorney Fain Hackney, Vineyard Power President Richard Andre, Moderator Mike Hebert, Town Accountant Margie Spitz, Keitha Fine, Principal Steve Nixon, HS Accounts Manager Mark Friedman, Superintendent Dr. Jim Weiss, Mike Marcus, Nolie Taylor, Perry Ambulace, Laurie Halt, Michael Halt, Amy Tierney, Roxanne Ackerman.

The meeting began at 5:30 pm

Under old business was a review of the minutes from 2/7 meetings. Adam said he made a few changes to the regular meeting but left the executive session meeting also held that day as is. There was one additional change striking the statement that the Selectmen would meet with the Menemsha Lease holder's on March 7<sup>th</sup>.

Spencer made a motion to accept the minutes from the regular 2/7 BOS meeting as amended, Beverly seconded. The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Beverly made a motion to accept the minutes from the 2/7 executive session BOS meeting as presented, Spencer seconded.

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

-1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda was a final review of the Landfill Solar Array Agreements. Ron said the meeting held last Wednesday was a good working meeting and helped clear up the issues identified at the Feb 7<sup>th</sup> BOS meeting with the two working documents that had been blended together from several template agreements that came from the DOER and Vineyard Power. There were 4 issues resolved:

1. The removal of the solar array if V. Power goes bankrupt would be covered by a surety bond;
2. A change in the requirement to buy 100% of the energy produced to just a minimum of 50K kilowatt hours each year;
3. A reconciliation that the additional five year extensions after the first ten year lease would need a Town Meeting Vote and;
4. Payment by the Town to remove the array to another site on Martha's Vineyard if the Town doesn't want to buy the system after ten years and if the Town votes not to extend the lease after ten years. The money needed to remove the array would be deducted from the accrued lease payments made during the 1<sup>st</sup> ten years.

-Fain also pointed out that at any time in the five year extensions, the Town, with 90 days' notice, can purchase the system. Ron then complimented Adam for staying on top of every issue related to the array documents and doing a good job for the Town.

Beverly made a motion to approve the solar lease and power purchase agreement documents as presented. Spencer seconded.

**The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.** Board members signed the two agreements and they were then given to Richard to be signed off by his Board. Keitha had a few questions about the array system for both Richard and Ron about the system being upgraded and the possibility of expansion.

-Mike Hebert was invited to update the status of the solar panels at the Fire Station. Mike told Board Members that when the Town entered into an Agreement from Cape Light Compact to put up the panels, they did so in conjunction with a program with a state program called "Solarize Our Schools." The panels were put on the fire station because the Town doesn't have a school. The five year contract divided up the

energy produced so that the Fire Department itself would get some of the electricity to use and the remainder would qualify as energy credits (ESRECS), which CLC would sell, giving a percentage of that sale to the Town. The payments received were a few hundred dollars each year. The value of these certificates has decreased over the 5 years to the point where they sell for very little so the contract between the CLC and the Town is not being renewed. He said the Town is still receiving the benefit of whatever electricity is being produced from the cells and that Cape Light Compact is still maintaining the system. There was discussion about the difference in electrical generation between the Fire House and the public bathrooms and how the restroom panels have only lost 10% generation but still function very effectively. Joe Sories is the contact person in case there is a need for repair. There was discussion about how the Fire House panels were paid for by a grant and when they are removed they will still have reusable and/or recyclable value. Mike said there can also be an upgrade down the road. Mike said he'd call Joe and follow up on the question about the eventual removal when the life cycle runs out.

-Adam gave his Administrator's report:

1. The Board of Health informs the Selectmen that they have appointed Jim Glavine and Megan Ottens-Sergeant to the Up-Island Regional Refuse District effective February 16<sup>th</sup>;
2. There had been several bids returned for re-flooring the Town Hall. Adam said that the bids have proposed different types of floor systems – wood vs laminate. The Board and Adam discussed the bid specs and how different the proposed bids were, the square footage discrepancies and work being done on the weekends. Mike said the type of flooring should be preselected and should be commercial grade. He also said the foyer should have the option of gauge slate as well as ceramic tile.  
The Board, by consensus, rejected all the bids submitted. Beverly said she would follow up by researching the exact type of flooring to be used. There would also be a re-measurement of the area to be re-floored and a new proposal would go out that would be more exact and total cost specific;
3. The Town's application to the Conservation Commission for the reopening of the access road to Squibnocket Pond for Aquinnah Residents has been approved. An order of conditions is being worked up that will draft a management plan for mowing the easement. It is only intended to be used for fishing purposes and any request to drive a vehicle down to the pond will need special permitting from the Board of Selectmen;
4. The Board of Health has a temporary change in Chairmanship. Richard Skidmore has assumed the duty for the time being from Jerry Wiener;
5. Adam had Board Members sign off on a reserve transfer for the Shellfish Department to cover costs related to purchase of shellfish seed that cut from last year's budget. Spencer made a motion to accept the Shellfish Department's transfer request. Jim seconded.

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

6. With regards to the Board meeting on March 6<sup>th</sup>, the Primary Election Day, the Town Clerk reports that the only Boards not allowed to meet on Election Day are the Zoning Board and the State's Department of Community Affairs for low rent public housing projects.

-It was decided that the FinCom would meet that day beginning at 9:00am in the Old Town Hall.

Spencer made a motion to recess until such a time when the school officials showed up for their scheduled meeting with the BOS as FinCom. Jim seconded.

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

The Board recessed at 6:30 pm

-At 6:55 pm the Board reconvened to hear the financial report given for the High School. Principal Steve Nixon and Accounts Manager Mark Friedman presented an operating budget that shows only a 1.85% increase from the previous year. Steve talked about state revenue budget cuts totaling 500K. He also said there have been internal cuts within the school. He still maintains there is a quality education to be had. A lot of cost shifting and consolidation of positions has taken place to offset rising payroll and benefits costs keeping the budget manageable. Steve said that of the six spending categories the school has, 3 of them are level funded. In spite of the state cuts and a 2.75% increase for all the contracted staff, the budget will be \$110,000 less than last year.

-Mark reported that as of the October 1<sup>st</sup> 2011 student census, there are 8 Aquinnah students currently in the high school, which is 33 % less than the previous year. It is estimated the population will stay the same. Steve talked about the per pupil cost being done according to the statutory formula. Adam asked about the current debt service for the school. Mark said it's \$881K. The amortization table is decreasing as the debt on the Performance Center is being paid off. The Committee thanked Steve and Mark for their report.

-Next up was the Superintendent's Office and the Up-Island School District. Jim Weiss talked 1<sup>st</sup> about the Superintendent's office and their budget. He talked about the many people who are part of the "shared services" budget. It is a budget that has a small support staff and many people outsourced into the different towns and school committees working for students with special needs. He said that the Office's budget is going up 4.96% for the next fiscal year. Dr. Weiss reported that the 1<sup>st</sup> budget attempt was only going up 1.96% increase but because there are a number of young, early intervention students coming into the system, three one-on-one assistants had to be added. Dr. Weiss pointed out that the apportionment goes to each of the school districts, and the Up-Island District is up \$37k or 4.64%.

-Adam asked where the 4.96% increase rates with other years. He said the prior year it was only 2% and before that 3 – 4 %. Beverly asked about Oak Bluffs percentage decreasing. He said there is less students there with special needs.

-The committee moved onto the UIRSD Budget. Jim asked about the difference Aquinnah would pay if the state mandated formula is used. Amy said the assessment would be higher by 29K. Beverly asked about impact aid and if it is part of the Aquinnah assessment. Dr. Weiss said any impact aid is used to lower the Town's assessment. Amy said that payments are still coming in from years ago. she said it varies from 18 – 31K per year. The aid amount is voted separately into Aquinnah's assessment only and not shared across the board by the 3 towns. Dr. Weiss showed that there is a \$176K increase in the UIRSD's budget compared to last year. Adam asked what the driving engine for the assessment increase is. Amy said it's due to payroll obligations, the new food service program, the kitchen renovation and a residential placement off island. School enrollment was discussed. It was stated that 23 of the 118 students enrolled up-island (Chilmark, WT & Charter School) are from Aquinnah. This is 3 more than the last year. Amy pointed out that the budget reduction for health care comes from the negotiated elimination of the indemnification plans.

-Nolie Taylor spoke of the new food program. She said the goal is to bring healthier meals to the students. Instead of the food being prepared at the high school and trucked to West Tisbury and Chilmark, hot food will be prepared in the WT Kitchen and then sent to Chilmark. She said there has already been a lot of donated labor for the kitchen renovation and donated materials as well. She said there is effort underway to make the food preparation be part of the educational curriculum. It was great to have the upgrade and to participate in a gleaning program to provide food support to the island schools. Dr. Weiss showed that the new lunch program will generate \$114K in revenue against the \$190K it will cost to renovate the

kitchen and run the program. He then said the 190K price tag will be paid for from the District's reserve fund. Adam asked if the hot food program will require additional staffing in Chilmark. Nolie said there would have to be a certified "ServSafe" staff member serving 3 hours per day. That position is included in the budget.

-There was discussion about utilizing locally grown food for the program. Nolie said there is a gleaning program that is already providing food to the schools and senior centers. There was discussion about using community gardens, including the one Aquinnah has next to the Fire Station. Everyone was thanked for attending.

-Spencer made a motion to adjourn. Beverly seconded.

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

-The meeting ended at 7:22 pm.