

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 10/15/2013
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Beverly Wright, Chairman, Jim Newman,

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator, Chief Randhi Belain, Sgt Paul Manning, GH Lighthouse Building Committee Chair Len Butler, DPW Director Jay Smalley, Fire Chief Simon Bollin, MVC Economic Developer Christine Flynn, Richard Skidmore

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm.

-1st on the agenda under old business was a review of minutes from 10/1. Adam made some suggested edits to them from notes given by ConCom Chair Sarah Thulin.

Jim made a motion to accept the minutes from October 1st as amended, Beverly seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-Next on the Old Business Agenda was a review of the licensing agreement the MV Museum has for the Edgartown Lighthouse. Beverly said that with the National Park Service application to acquire the lighthouse, part of it is reporting how the structure will be managed and used. The Board was looking at other arrangements the Museum has for comparative reasons.

-Beverly suggested that utilities should be a town responsibility and that the grounds maintenance could fall under the town's public works department. There was discussion about the property use netting a profit and that profit going to the town as the new lessor. There was discussion about putting out for bid a new lease if the current lease the town would assume from the Coast Guard was reworked.

-Adam updated the transfer of the police car to a town use car in the SSA Palmer Lot. He said the use comes strongly recommended from the Town's Insurance Agent because of liability issues. Randhi updated the status of the vehicle changeover with the delivery of a new cruiser and getting a decal for the car going into Palmer.

-Under New Business Len reported the recommendation from his committee for the geo-technical engineering report. He explained the process of getting to a finalist and how they came about deciding the bid winner, which is GEI Consultants from Woburn Massachusetts.

Jim made a motion to approve the recommendation for GEI Consultants to do the geotechnical engineering report. Beverly seconded. Jim commended the committee for the extensive review of the 8 proposals that came in

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-Len reported that the geotechnical testing has an archeological plan in place that has been approved by the Tribe. The Mass Historic Society is requiring that an expert is on site during the geological investigation prior to the drilling. He said that the Public Archeological Laboratory (PAL) in R.I has been contacted for this pre-drilling study. They are sending someone who has worked with the Tribe before. He said the funding for this will be from CPC funds. Len brought up that because a relationship exists between the MV Museum (MVM) and the Coast Guard (CG), that part of the study involving pre-drilling archeological work on CG property has to be contracted between the MVM and the CG. So the whole study will be done but shared by two entities. He broke down the shared costs between the town and the museum for doing the report. The town would pay for the greater share.

-Jim made a motion to accept PAL's proposal for the scope of work needed by Mass Historic and the Coast Guard for the pre-drilling archeological study. Beverly seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-The Board moved onto the Tri-Town agreement and a vote to utilize leftover funds for the purchase of a new ambulance to purchase a new chase vehicle. Beverly read the e-mail stating that the appropriation was for \$220,000 but the actual purchase was \$185,000. Money is leftover in reserve to purchase a \$26,000 interceptor vehicle.

Jim made a motion to approve from the Tri-Town Reserve Fund \$26,000 for a new rescue vehicle. Beverly seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-Next on the agenda was a public hearing that was to approve the town's community development strategy. Beverly read the public hearing notice. Christine went into detail of how the approved strategy leads to the town having access to the Community Development Block Grants that provide child care subsidies as well as housing rehabilitative construction work. The town's Affordable Housing Committee did review and made comments that were edited into the report.

Jim made a motion to close the public hearing. Beverly seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Jim made a motion to accept Aquinnah's community development strategy report as presented. Beverly seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-Next on the agenda was a vote to approve the Town's agreement with MVTV. Richard Skidmore told the board that as a result of the negotiation with ComCast for franchise rights for the next ten years, 5% of their receipts goes to public access. 3% of the money raised by contract goes to MVTV for their ongoing operations in providing public access television for the next ten years. The contract needs the vote of each town.

Jim made a motion to approve Aquinnah's contract with MVTV. Beverly seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Two copies were signed. Richard took one of them to deliver to MVTV.

-Next on the agenda was a review of the warrant for the special town meeting scheduled for November 5th. Adam said the warrant will be posted by October 22nd. The Board reviewed each of the proposed warrant articles.

-Beverly wanted to add an article to purchase picnic tables (3) for the circle and benches to be placed closer to where the bicycle parking area was.

-Adam to add DPW Director's request for a new PC Laptop.

-Adam to add another prior year bill

-Beverly gave a report of the results of the 10K race. She said the net was going to be around \$11K.

-In Selectmen's Other Business, Simon and the Board discussed the ongoing lack of communication between his department and the Tribe about his role as their fire chief and the follow up to safety concerns he reported last April. Simon discussed the liability issue his department is currently in because of the lack of adoption of fire codes. Jim asked Simon to produce an itemized list of safety issues still not addressed and/or corrected. Simon said there can be an adoption of the State Fire Codes rewritten as local/tribe codes for fire safety. There was discussion about what buildings/facilities were available for inspection back in the spring and what was locked up at the time.

-Beverly said to Simon that the expectations (about fire safety), are what he wants from the Tribe and not the other way around. Simon agreed but still feels the need for the Tribe to adopt a fire code. He needs to have one in place around which he can then do his job as fire chief. Jim asked for a copy of the federal fire code. There was discussion about communities adopting the federal fire code at the state level. Simon just wants there to be a code for all the buildings to be measured against and held to in compliance with public safety. There was discussion about accountability and liability.

Beverly asked that Simon write a letter that states his continued concerns and the suggestion that a code be adopted. The letter should be carbon copied to the housing authority and its commissioners as well.

-There was discussion about the 45 day notification having been passed that has Simon no longer being the Tribe's Fire Chief. Simon talked about the fact he hasn't inspected several of the water tanks so he can only assume that they're empty. Simon said there is now not enough info to know if his department can effectively fight fires on tribal lands.

In Selectmen's Other Business, Simon said that Edgartown now has an available rescue truck to swap out for the one Aquinnah has. Simon would like to swap because it's a four wheel drive and diesel.

By consensus, the Board agreed to go forward with the process of swapping out the two rescue vehicles with Edgartown.

-Beverly brought up the continued problem with trash and garbage can placement at the cliff shops.

-In Other Business, Jay submitted a punch list of things that need to be done for all the campus buildings. Jim said the next building to be worked on is the police station. Randhi said the building's renovation should be on the town meeting warrant for next May.

-Jay submitted a work contract for the tiling of the upstairs shower in the Vanderhoop Homestead.

Jim made a motion to approve the contract for Jason Baird to retile the Homestead shower. Beverly seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

Beverly signed the contract.

-There was more discussion about the punch list and fixing up the front part of town hall. The Board took the punch list under advisement for further discussion.

-Beverly asked if there was anything else to report. Hearing none...

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting ended at 6:14 pm.