

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 1/07/2014
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

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

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator; Gazette Reporter Remy Tumin, Vern Welch, June Manning, Police Chief Randhi Belain, Treasurer Judie Jardin, Sgt Paul Manning, Personnel Committee member June Manning

The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

-1st on the agenda under old business was a review of minutes from 12/17. Beverly inquired about the penalty of a loss of a scallop bushel being put into the shellfish regulations. Jim said the penalty should be a loss of a bushel for not being properly struck regardless of the number of bushels the Shellfish Committee recommends being taken each year. Adam said he'd notify the committee of the recommendation by the Board and then bring back the regulation change for a vote at the next meeting.

-There was discussion about a change in office space Town Hall personnel
Jim made a motion to accept the minutes from December 17th, Spencer seconded.

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

-1st on the agenda was the interview with Sibel Suman and the treasurer's position. When asked why she wanted the job, she talked about her background currently working in town hall and enjoying the people she works with. She said she would continue to be the administrative assistant for the Planning Board if allowed. Sibel talked about her job as human resources coordinator with the Edgartown National Bank and what she's done with benefits administration and payroll there. She said she's learned a lot on the job. She also talked about her work with Edgartown's Affordable Housing Committee and how that has tied in with her knowledge of their municipal software program, MUNIS.

Jim asked about her knowledge of loans. She said she's discussed that job responsibility with Judy. Judy said that after she departs, she'll be available by phone to answer any job responsibility questions. Sibel said she's ready and can give proper notice to ENB and start right away. She said she's a very quick learner...

-There was discussion about the differences between working with MUNIS and VADAR and that the latter is easier to use. The Board thanked her for applying.

-Next on the agenda was a meeting with the other treasurer finalist, Peter Graczykowski. He discussed his current living situation on the island. When asked about his coming to work for a small town, Peter said he understands the needs of a small town and started his municipal career in a small town in Connecticut. He has a lot of hands on experience working for various towns and cities in the New England area. He said he has used MUNIS in the past. When asked about where he wants to be in five years, Peter said he wants to stay on the island as his family has moved here in 2012 and wants to stay here. There was discussion about the position eventually becoming full time. There was discussion about the treasurer/benefits administrator's combined duties and the increase of hours from 18 – 25 hours. The Board thanked him for applying.

-Next on the agenda was a hearing from NStar to put 75' of wiring underground on Lighthouse Rd. Adam asked that it be tabled until the next meeting as he found out there should be advertisement of the project prior to the Board granting the request.

By consensus the Board agreed to take up the request at their next meeting January 21st.

-Next on the agenda was a sign off on a liability form for the current drilling going on for the lighthouse relocation project. Beverly read the language in the document.

Jim made a motion to approve the GEI liability release form. Spencer seconded.

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

Beverly signed the form and gave it to Adam to be passed onto Relocation Committee Chairman Len Butler.

-Next on the agenda was an update on the request to increase the size of the Philbin Beach Parking Lot. Adam showed the board a site plan that had been created by Planning Board Chairman Peter Temple. He said both Peter and ConCom Chair Sarah Thulin did a site visit and has come up with a proposed site plan. On it was sketched out an area that showed an extension of the lot could be achieved into both the sliver of land owned by Lake and the abutting parcel owned by 7 Families. The site plan showed that in addition to the 3 parking spaces the abutting owners would have, there could potentially be room for 10 more cars with the proposed extension. Adam relayed Peter's thoughts that even though the extension would be of minimal parking gain, the land itself would give the town more beachfront property, which makes the proposed idea well worth it.

-There was discussion about the costs involved and who would pay for the clearing of the land. The Board wanted to wait until Peter returns from vacation to discuss the matter more.

-Next on the agenda Beverly announced the award Derrill Bazy was receiving for his work with community preservation. There was discussion about who could attend the State House ceremony Tuesday, January 14th. In Selectmen's Other Business, Beverly read a letter from Health Agent Julie Sierputowski about her having an office of her own created down at the end of the hallway. The request was referred to Jay Smalley for further review.

-Going back to Old Business, Beverly talked about changing of the Town Lot Lines down at Menemsha. She asked board members if they thought the proposed idea from Chilmark should go forward. Jim said he had no problem with the idea. Spencer thought the town should not give up any of its land. Beverly simply wanted to know if Aquinnah will move forward with the idea.

Jim made a motion for Chilmark to be contacted and told the Town will pursue further the proposed idea of changing the town boundary lines in Menemsha. Beverly seconded.

The Board voted 2 in favor (Jim & Beverly) and one against (Spencer). The motion passed.

-There was discussion about all the expenses involved in accomplishing this task. Judy said it's a lot of time and effort for one Chilmark individual to not have to pay RE Taxes for his building which currently is 2/3rds in Aquinnah.

-Adam read several pieces of correspondence from donors to the lighthouse relocation cause.

-Vern Welch asked about the status of different things regarding the Menemsha Lease Lots. There was discussion about the opinion the Board had just received from Principal Assessor Michael Stutz on ownership of the structures in Menemsha. There was discussion about the different structures that could be affected by Stutz's opinion.

-Adam gave an update on the Lobsterville Rd and the additional repairs that are now needed as a result of the winter storm Hercules. He said the additional work will be covered by Chapter 90 funds.

-Beverly and the Board said thanks to Judy for her 9 years of service to the town...June thanked her as well.

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

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

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

The meeting ended at 6: 15 pm.