

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 2/04/2014
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

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

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator; Treasurer Peter Graczykowski, Fire Chief Simon Bollin; DPW Director Jay Smalley, Tribe Natural Resources Director Bret Stearns, Library Director Lisa Sherman, Police Chief Randhi Belain, Sgt Paul Manning, Gazette Reporter Remy Tumin, Harbormaster Chip Vanderhoop
The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

-1st on the agenda under old business was a review of minutes from 1/21.

Jim made a motion to accept the minutes from January 21st, Spencer seconded.

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

-1st on the agenda was a meeting with Jay Smalley to go over ordering picnic tables and benches and to bid out for the landscaping design plan for the path to the circle restrooms. Jay said the pricing has made it so that only two of benches and p-tables can be acquired and not three. There was discussion about the wording in the warrant article and the \$1,500 allocated not being enough for the total needed. Adam said as long as it is for the purpose stated and not over budgeted, it can be two and two. There was discussion about getting the additional benches and tables out of the park and recreation budget.

Jay talked about getting several engineering firms to bid on the path landscaping design. There was discussion about the town hall door work and work still to be done with the doors at the public restrooms.

-Jay talked about the wood decking for the front entrance and a design needed to refurbish the whole entrance to the municipal building. There was discussion about improving or replacing the whole front entrance both structurally and cosmetically. He said he's looking for guidance from the Board as to what they'd like to see as far as a rail system and what type of materials should be used. Jay said he'd check with Jerry on handicap access issues and draw out a walkway system and the pricing for the Board to review at the next meeting.

-Next on the agenda under new business was a look at the schedule of meetings dealing with the budget. The different budget forms from prior years were looked at. Peter showed the Board an new excel reporting sheet that would give the Selectmen/FinCom a 3 year look back of prior spending by each department and a new way of reporting the proposed budget. Peter showed that each department would show what increases have occurred in a three year period for comparisons. The expenses would be much more detailed. There will be an attempt to prefill the prior years and the requests for FY '15 for the Board to review. The Board thought It was a good idea to create the budget book.

-In Selectmen's Other Business, Beverly read a letter from Tribal Historian Bettina Washington about a recent trespass situation at the Gay Head Cliffs. She then read a draft board response. There was consensus by Board members to approve the response letter. Beverly signed the letter.

-Next was a report on the proposed channel dredging of Menemsha Pond. Bret gave his report on the US Army Corp of Engineers plan to use FEMA Sandy funds to dredge the channel to improve navigation. He reported the difference between 6 and 8' deep X 40' wide dredging and what size boats could pass through. Bret talked about the report given on the potential impact to shellfish propagation. He talked about the contract given to the Woods Hole Group for a bathymetric study to be done. Adam showed the board documents resulting from that study. Bret said there is significant shoaling at two points in the channel that needs to be addressed today. Beverly asked what the downside is to performing the dredge. He said the downside to the project is the unknown...the variable is the effect it will have on circulatory patterns. There is no way to predict what will happen. But dredging will ensure navigation in the pond long term.

Bret said he's recommending to the Tribe to dredge. Chip said there are very few negative impacts predicted according to the surveys done and he's for it.

He said that members of the shellfish committee who attended the meeting last Thursday want the dredge to go forward and alleviate the silting up of the channel. It's a preventative measure.

Beverly asked about Chilmark. Bret said Chilmark's shellfish committee still has concerns. There was discussion about other benefits that will go along with the dredge, including beach nourishment and a side agreement between the ACE and the Tribe to dredge West Basin.

Bret said there is a sunset date for all three applicants to vote to endorse the dredge of the channel. Bret said he's recommending to the tribe the dredge go forward because if it's not done, the channel won't stay open. The circulatory patterns will stay the same and water flow will benefit the shellfish in the pond.

Jim made a motion for Aquinnah to approve dredging of the Menemsha Pond Channel at 6' by the US Army Corp of Engineers. Spencer seconded.

In the discussion, Bret said he'd work on getting a side contract to have a percentage of the sand redistributed to Lobsterville Beach. There was discussion on what would happen if Chilmark votes the proposal down. Bret said the project has no local cost share and there is no way the 3 entities (Tribe, Aquinnah and Chilmark), could afford the projected 1.95 million dollar budget this project is estimated to cost.

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

-In Other Business, Lisa came to the Board requesting appointment to her position since the contract with the Library Trustees had expired back in November. She said she's working on a new contract but wanted to be appointed in the meantime by the Board so that she's covered under the personnel by-laws.

Jim made a motion to appoint Lisa Sherman as Library Director until June 30th, 2014. Spencer seconded.

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

-In Other Business, Sgt Manning handed out a set of discussion points for the patrolman's association contract negotiations with the town. Jim and Spencer agreed to meet with the Association Tuesday February 18th at 9:00 am.

-In Other Business, Simon gave an update on the repairs done for the pumper truck. \$4K was spent on the truck but it's 20 years old and the cost to retrofit the vehicle (\$125K). A new truck would be \$350K. He suggested that a new pumper broken down over 20 years of use would cost the town \$1,400 a month. He reported the tanker bids in the RFP have gone out and responses are due by the 21st.

Simon gave an update on the 1st responder class being taught Wednesday's. He said there's a new state law that requires turn out gear over ten years old not to be used in firefighting training. Simon calculated that replacing the gear would cost \$2K per person and he hopes to have a warrant article for \$20K at the annual town meeting to acquire the gear.

-In Other Business, there was a review of the job description being proposed by the Save the Gay Head Lighthouse Committee for a paid position for a Project Assistant. Beverly said the funds to pay the person could come from the Aquinnah/Gay Head Community Association. There were questions about parts of the JD that impacted Adam's role as procurement officer. There was consensus to further review the JD by Committee members and make any necessary edits.

-In Other Business, there was a look over of the National Park Service Application done to date. Adam reported that there is a request to extend the deadline another 30 days. Beverly said she'd sign the pages she needs to sign before leaving on vacation.

-In Other Business, the Board reviewed the request for proposals for the Lighthouse Moving Contractor. By consensus, the Board approved the RFP.

-In Other Business there was a review and discussion of the Dan Perry memorandum. The Board by consensus agreed to have Attorney Perry send the proposed letter in the memorandum.

-Jay reported that the water heater has been replaced in the Library. Randhi reported there have been a couple of water leaks from pipes in his station. There was discussion about the condition of the police station in general and where a new station could be located on the town campus and should it be combined with the fire station.

-Simon commented on a junior fire fighter plan that is recruiting 16 – 18 years olds.

-Adam reported that Elise Lebovit requested in the town report more reporting of the revenues that come into the town each year. Beverly asked that definitions of various budgeting terms such as, “cherry sheet” and “reserve fund” also be included in the back of the town report...

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

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

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

The meeting ended at 6:36 pm.