

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 3/18/2014
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

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

Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Fire Chief Simon Bollin, DPW Director Jay Smalley, Police Chief Randhi Belain, Sgt Paul Manning, Treasurer Peter Graczykowski, Town Moderator Mike Hebert, Assistant Assessor Angela Cwyinski, June Manning, Vern Welch, Cape Light Compact Director Maggie Downey, PBPRC Chairman Peter Temple, Harbormaster Brian Vanderhoop, Gazette reporter Remy Tumin, Chilmark Resident Jessica Roddy

The meeting began at 5:32 pm.

-1st on the agenda under Old Business was a review of minutes from 3/04.

Jim made a motion to accept the minutes from March 4th, 2014 Spencer seconded.

The Board voted 2-0-1 in favor. The motion passed.

-Next on the agenda under Old Business was a further review of the 7 Families proposal to gift abutting property to the Philbin Beach parking lot in exchange for parking space and additional beach access. There was discussion about conservation of land and how the additional space will be well screened. Peter showed the map once again of the proposed addition and how the three spaces would be on land for those not being residents of the town. There was discussion about how many additional spaces there would be from a minimum of 4 up to 9 – 10. Peter said the project needs to be permitted. There was discussion about who would clear the land after the taking.

-The Board was in agreement that once knowing how many spaces would be created, the project should go forward. There was discussion about the owners of the Lake property wanting a permanent easement through their strip of land instead of gifting it to the town. Vern said he could donate time to do the clearing and put in fill for the additional parking space. There was discussion about getting Town Counsel's advice as to how to proceed legally and if there needs to be a town vote. Adam said he'd talk to Counsel about how to legally proceed. Peter said there will still need to be permitting by ConCom and PBPRC.

-Next on the agenda under new business was the approval of the Patrolman's Association contract. Board members went through the different provisions negotiated in the contract between Jim and Spencer and the Patrolman's group.

Jim made a motion to approve the negotiated 3 year Patrolman's Association Contract that begins July 1, 2014.

Spencer seconded.

The Board voted 2 in favor (Jim & Spencer) – 0 against – and 1 abstention (Beverly). The motion passed.

-Next on the agenda for New Business was the appointment of Rodney Silvia as a special officer for the Town. Randhi said that Rodney had just retired from Tisbury with the rank of Sergeant but wanted to continue with police work as a summer cop.

Jim made a motion to appoint Rodney Silva as a Town of Aquinnah Special Police Officer until October 31, 2014.

Spencer seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was a request from Shellfish Chairman William Vanderhoop to ask permission from the Board to request an extension of the commercial scallop season until April 30th to go to the Department of Marine & Fish Wildlife.

Spencer made a motion to approve the letter requesting the extension until 4/30 to the DMF. Jim seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was a presentation by Maggie Downey for Cape Light Compact. She gave a slide show presentation that showed:

1. How CLC was formed;
2. What services they provide to communities, both at the residential, commercial and municipal levels;
3. An update on their work with the Cape Vineyard Electrical Cooperative;
4. Representation to Cape Light Compact by members of the Cape Community;

5. Power supply and negotiated contracts that eliminate pass through or exit fee charges.

-There are 540 accounts in Aquinnah capable of using the Cape Light Energy Efficiency Program. Maggie also talked about the savings the town gets from the solar panels on top of the Fire House and at the Circle Bathrooms.

-Maggie wrapped up the presentation by talking about the auditing that's been done recently and their continuing work bringing solar array projects to the Cape & Islands through CVEC and identifying where they can be more effective in the vineyard community with an efficiency study. There was discussion about the street lights (7) the town has and whether or not they should be acquired from NStar because they have been fully depreciated and then the town could change out the bulbs for more efficient lighting. Adam to call CLC to get more information about acquisition of the street lights. The Board thanked her for her presentation.

-Next on the Agenda under New Business was a review of the draft presentation of the proposed budget. Peter G. talked to the board showing a spreadsheet showing prior year's budgets and a 3 year comparison. He showed that each department has submitted their requests and the differences between FY '14 and proposed for FY '15.

Adam explained the spreadsheet showing wage and departmental expenses. Percentage increases between the years was discussed. Adam pointed out that in the proposed budget there is only a 2.45% increase.

The Selectmen agreed to Wednesday, March 26th @ 12:30 pm to go over the budget.

There was discussion about presenting the spreadsheet at town meeting and if it would be helpful in educating the public.

Jim made a request to have the MVC come to the next meeting to explain its assessment increase. Adam to call and ask if they will attend.

-Next on the Agenda under Other Business was the creation of a Public Safety Building Committee. Randhi said he's done research into how West Tisbury went about getting its public safety building constructed. He talked about a study that needs to be done first and then what options there could be based on how much public safety structure needs to be built. Beverly said there really needs to be a Capital Improvement Building Committee to look at all the buildings and which are the priority, perhaps starting with a new public safety building.

-There was discussion about the structural problems the police station currently has. Randhi said the need is urgent to upgrade the public safety component as well as Jay's needs dealing with public works. There was discussion about having a study done to assess the needs of the campus. Simon said what's needed is to start the process; establish a committee to look at the infrastructure and make projections what will be needed 5-10-20 years down the road. The WT Station was talked about and the different spaces available for animal control, emergency management and other public safety services.

-Beverly made a motion was made to establish a Capital Expenditure Committee. Jim seconded.

There was discussion about the CEC having a subcommittee to specifically address the need for a new public safety committee. There was discussion about what was researched 3 years ago to have a new public safety building.

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

Spencer said he'd represent the Selectmen on this new committee. Adam said he'd advertise the need for members.

-In Other Business, there was a review of the departmental warrant articles. There was discussion about the Planning Boards article to question renaming State Rd. Peter T. explained that the history of the road's name as really being "South Rd". Should it stay "State Rd"? Or be something else since "State Rd" is also in Chilmark and addresses are duplicated. Peter talked about the need to ask voters if they want to change the name. There was discussion about future costs that the town may have to absorb if a name change were to occur. Peter said the naming of the roads is under the Planning Board's purview. Angela said she has to do the renumbering.

-There was discussion about the Town By-law change to prevent residents from getting certain permits from the town if they haven't paid their taxes.

-There was discussion about how the spending article requests could all be paid for with certified free cash.

The Board agreed, by consensus, to put the non-binding referendum to close the Pilgrim Nuclear Plant on the warrant and ballot.

-Adam handed out the Auditor's financial management letter to Board members covering the audits for the last 3 years for the Selectmen to review.

-Adam reported that the RFP for the lighthouse move brought back only one bid, and that it was International Chimney.

-Beverly asked what the status was for the Tribe-Town Safety Agreement. Simon said the Tribe was just tweaking final language about enforcement of certain laws. It was hoped that the agreement could be signed at the April 1 meeting.

-Jay reported that Engineer Kent Healy will come to the April 1 meeting to discuss what options are available for redirecting the circle path to the bathrooms and that he's ordered benches and picnic tables for the park area.

-Beverly recognized Vern. He asked if he can add some tie up cleats and make some minor improvements to the dock area on Lot A. There was discussion about the memo Attorney Perry sent the Board regarding the status of the shed and whether or not Vern had received a letter from the Board to the effect that the town now owned the shed.

Vern asked that he put his own lock on the shed and give the town a copied key. Beverly said she didn't have a problem with the request; Jim said the same. There was discussion about the current lock on the shed. The Board stated that the current lock(s) on the structure were not town owned.

There was discussion with Angela about the improvements of cleats and a railing to the dock area that is town property and not Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) permitted. There was discussion about assessing the shed that Angela claimed belongs to Chilmark. Angela stated that the dock needs a DEP permit.

The Board said they'd follow up with D. Perry to clarify the permitting situation. There was discussion about the difference the lease lot holders have with floating docks (Wendy, Hollis, Buddy & Hugh) vs those with permanent docks and pylons (Murphy, Welch).

-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 7:15 pm.