

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 11/17/2015
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Chairman Spencer Booker, Julianne Vanderhoop, Jim Newman.

Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Sgt. Paul Manning, Fire Chief Simon Bollin, Police Chief Randhi Belain, Town Moderator Mike Hebert, Gazette Reporter Alex Elvin, Margaret Downey (Cape Light Compact), Asst. Assessor Angela Cywinski, DPW Director Jay Smalley, Liz Witham

The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

-1st on the agenda under Old Business was a review of minutes from the October 27th meeting.

Jim made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Julianne seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 0 -1(Spencer) in favor. The motion passed.

-1st on the agenda under New Business was a public hearing to set the tax rate. Spencer read the public notice. Angela said the residential rate would be \$5.36 cents per thousand. There was discussion about having a residential exemption program in the future. There was discussion about forest and recreational chapter lands that get real estate reductions. The residential exemption has to be voted on by the BOS and hasn't because it is burdensome to the tax levy.

Jim made a motion to accept the minimum tax rate at \$5.36 per thousand. Juli seconded.

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

-Next on the Agenda was a meeting with Margaret Downey from Cape Light Compact. Maggie provided an update on the organization's newest three-year energy efficiency plan for customers on Cape Cod and the Vineyard. The regional energy service provider has been seeking customer input since May.

The plan offers several new incentives for energy upgrades, including rebates for some businesses and multi-family homes. Current services include free energy assessments, interest-free loans, and a number of rebates for improving energy efficiency.

Among other things, the new plan would raise the energy-use threshold for small and medium businesses to qualify for incentives, and expand weatherization services to include homes heated by oil or propane.

As in the current plan, year-round renters and customers earning less than 80 per cent of the median income would qualify for additional benefits.

The plan was filed with state Department of Public Utilities for review on Oct. 30.

-Next on the agenda was a meeting with Chief Belain. Randhi came to the board to promote the massachusetts police accreditation program. He talked about the difference between certification and accreditation. He said he'd have to adjust some of the department's policy procedures as to how the department will be run. There was discussion about whether or not the fees are paid for by insurance. The Aquinnah Police department is in the self assessment phase with other police departments on the island.

-Next on the Agenda was appointing Mark Barbadoro as the new Building Inspector.

Jim made a motion to appoint Mark Barbadoro as the Aquinnah Building Inspector until June 30th, 2016. Julianne seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was a report about the bids received for the restoration project to replace the metal railings on the lighthouse. Adam said 3 bids were submitted and the lowest came in at \$68K. He said he is working with Rick Pomroy and Len Butler to confirm the #'s and hopes to have a contract in place within the next two weeks.

-In Other Selectmen's Business, Liz Witham came to the board with a proposed by-law by Vineyard Conservation Society is planning to place on all spring town meeting warrants to ban plastic bags from supermarkets. Liz listed the other towns in MA who have already the ban in place. By consensus the Board agreed to endorse the town by-law to come banning plastic bags from food stores in Aquinnah.

-In other business, Simon asked that the Fire Department's extra boots, which aren't needed, be donated to the Town of Stoneham for an educational project The Board, by consensus, approved the request.

-Alex asked Board Members if they'd like to comment on the recent District Court decision turning down the Tribe's right to game on their lands.

Juli said, "it's a win-win for the island community". Jim said, "time to move forward with other things". Spencer said, "the decision is not divisive for the community".

-Spencer asked if there was anything else to come before the Board.

Hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to go into executive session to negotiate the Town Administrator's contract.

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

-The meeting ended at 6:42 pm.