

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting 2/04/2015  
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Chairman Jim Newman, Spencer Booker, Julianne Vanderhoop  
Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Fire Chief Simon Bollin, Police Chief Randhi Belain, Relocation Chairman Len Butler, School Superintendent James Weiss, High School Principal Gil Traversso, Matthew D'Andrea, Asst. Superintendent, Chilmark School Principal Susan Stephens, Mary Void, Assistant Chilmark Principal, Mark Friedman, Accounts Mgr at the High School, West Tisbury School Principal Donna Lowell Bettencourt, Arthur Bergeron from the MV Center for living, Amy Tierney, Theresa Manning, Gazette Reporter Alex Elvin, Lighthouse Relocation Chairman Len Butler, DPW Director Jay Smalley

The meeting began at 5:35 pm.

-Jim introduced Arthur Bergeron, who spoke of his involvement with the County's development of the MV Center For Living facility and program. Theresa said that June Manning is also very much involved in the same project.

-1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda under Old Business was a review of the minutes from the 1/21/2015.

Spencer made a motion to approve the minutes from January 21<sup>st</sup> . Julianne seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was a meeting with Jim Weiss and the school budgets. He said the UIRSC budget for Aquinnah is only up 1.24% from last year. There is only a slight increase in enrollment. He broke down the areas of the budget that have OPEB and payroll obligations that have increases, including new personnel being added and p/t positions brought up to full time. Salary and benefit obligations are up from the 5 contracted bargaining groups.

-Spencer asked what the circuit breaker is. Jim said it is a state reimbursement for extraordinary educational costs, an example of which is Out of School Residential Placement.

-Moving onto the High School budget, it is up \$120K from last year because Aquinnah enrollment is going from 9 to 14 students. Jim said the loss of building aide from the state, combined with extraordinary building repair issues that need to be addressed has caused the budget to increase. Some P/T positions have been eliminated to offset these expenses. Gil said there are salary increases but capital line items is the bigger reason for the budget increase.

-Jim W. talked about the number of meetings held to get to the budget. Excess & efficiency funds (\$175K) were added in to soften the blow.

-Theresa talked about her experience in the budget process. Jim N. asked if she could come to a BOS meeting for an info session for Aquinnah residents to share their concerns and have a dialogue with school administrators.

-Next on the agenda was approval of a contract as part of the relocation of the lighthouse. Adam produced the contract with Tetra-Tech for consulting work related to the removal of contaminated soil on the site. He explained that the consulting firm had already done soil testing for the Coast Guard and are needed to continue to monitor the small amount of soil that will be excavated and then put back after that has traces of lead in it. He said that counsel has reviewed the contract and approved it.

-Julianne made a motion to approve the Tetra-Tech Contract. Jim seconded.

In the discussion, there were questions of the lead soil being reburied. Len said the contamination was minimal and the cost to remove off site instead was prohibitively expensive.

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

Jim signed the contract.

-Len brought the Board up to speed on the relocation effort. He showed on different plans the way International Chimney is going to get under the structure, lift it up and transport it. Sourati engineering has put together the plan for the new foundation. He said the depth of the excavation is 9' around the lighthouse but will grade out to only 1' by the new foundation. Len showed the dewatering plan to the Board and explained how it will work as well.

-There was discussion about the fencing needed around the site and general area and the salvaging of the sod materials and shrubs so that a vegetative cover can be put back as soon as the move begins.

-Len talked about the process to bid out for the excavation work and the design of the new foundation. He showed the landscape plan and how it will go into effect during and after the move. The plan showed the different plantings that will be used for vegetative cover. The landscape proposal was advertised and the pre-bid meeting had 3 island contractors attend. Bids are due Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. Excavation bids are due this Friday.

-Len read the report from the Public Archeology Lab. They said there will be historical documentation for the foundation of the lighthouse keeper's house to be reviewed by Mass Historic. PAL wants to dig down the brick wall foundation remnants and photo it for historical reference. This will be done 1<sup>st</sup> before the general excavation begins. The Coast Guard will place a temporary beacon at the lookout when the Lighthouse's service is disconnected. This will be at the lookout and be elevated to the same focal plane as the emergency beacon in the lighthouse. The Coast Guard will use a concrete buoy anchor to support the structure. There will be a segmented pole used and it will have a LED flash beacon. The town will supply a security fence around it and it will be solar powered so no electricity is needed. Len said the temporary beacon will be on from March to June.

-Len gave an update on the Planning Board's review of the total landscape plan. Randhi said he talked with PB members and are looking at alternatives for the path going from the shop area to the lighthouse.

-Len showed the site soil storage plan in the town's parking lot. There will be two soil and loam storage sites because the compaction levels of the excavated material remain the same. The goal is to avoid ground water seepage. The piles will be stored separately and covered. Adam reported the GSA is wrapping up the deed and will have it done by the end of February at the latest.

-Next on the agenda was the two newly formed committees for campus planning and historic buildings. Adam reported that with the Historic Building Committee, Those wishing to be appointed are Library Director Lisa Sherman for the Library, Betsey Mayhew from MV Museum to represent the Lighthouse, and Beverly Wright and Elise Lebovit as two at-large Aquinnah Residents. He said he's still waiting to see who will represent the ACC and who will act on the committee for the Tribe.

-Adam said he's had requests from Derrill Bazy and Kathy Newman to serve on the Campus Planning Committee. There was discussion about a member of the BOS serving the committee as well.

Spencer agreed to serve with Derrill Bazy and Kathy Newman on the Campus Planning Committee

-Len talked about having an advisory board specifically for the lighthouse once the Save the Gay Head Lighthouse Committee disbands. This board would have him, Adam, DPW Director Jay Smalley, Lighthouse Keeper Richard Skidmore, Betsey Mayhew, a representative of the condo association, a member of the Tribe and a representative from the Town's Community Preservation Committee. Two at-large community members (Len being one), will also be part of the Board. He presented a flow chart of responsibilities that breaks down what the advisory board will be responsible for, including licensing management, hours of operation and leasing for events and activities. He talked about the different types of events that can occur on the property. Routine maintenance will also be supervised and they will have oversight as well as future restoration and the ongoing mitigation with the condo owners. The advisory board would directly report to the BOS. The 10K race will be a separate event. There was discussion about disbanding the GHL committee and getting the other committee's involved.

Spencer made a motion to create "The Lighthouse Advisory Board". Juli seconded.

**The Board voted 3 – 0 in Favor. The motion passed.**

-There was discussion about Popular Mechanics doing a story on the Lighthouse and a 10:30 am site visit and then meet shortly thereafter at Town Hall this coming Saturday.

-In Other Business, Simon talked about storm coverage. He said deficiencies emerged due to the magnitude of the storm. Specifically the fire department and ambulance bays weren't plowed enough. There was discussion about having a back-up plan and using other resources like the Tribe and Decca's availability for stationing a front loader in Aquinnah. There was discussion about Jay and the town's plow truck being stuck up at The Circle for 3.5 hours before being rescued. Jim suggested to have a meeting to discuss what went wrong and what can be done – Darren Welch from the state to be contacted to talk about the State sponsored trucks that got stuck during the storm. Simon said that because private roads were still blocked, there should have been an extension of coverage should go through Wednesday and into Thursday instead.

-Julianne thanked those who were on call and the transport of a pregnant family member the day before.

Adam to set up a meeting to discuss the problems with the storm and the various agencies.

-There was discussion about how to check in on the elderly during that kind of storm event and what to do if power is lost.

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

Hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn.

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

-The meeting ended at 7:00 pm.