

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting 3/18/2015  
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Chairman Jim Newman, Spencer Booker, Julianne Vanderhoop  
Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Gazette Reporter Alex Elvin, and Treasurer Peter Graczykowski.  
Police Chief Randhi Belain, DPW Director Jay Smalley, Fire Chief Simon Bollin, Sgt Paul Manning, Lighthouse Keeper R. Skidmore, ConCom Chair Sarah Thulin, Joannie Lalacheur, Assessor Angela Cywinski.  
The meeting began at 5:33 pm.

-1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda under Old Business was a review of the minutes from the 2/18/2015.

Juli made a motion to approve the minutes from February 18<sup>th</sup>. Spencer seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda under Old Business was an update from Fire Chief Simon Bollin and the Tribe – Town Safety Agreement. There was discussion about the upcoming annual meeting held in April and how the current proposed amendments to the agreement from last April still have not been approved by both parties. Simon talked about additional changes in the current agreement by the Tribe have altered the document to the point where he can't approve it. Simon talked about the ongoing liability issue (Structures on Tribal Lands not included in the agreement) his department has had to carry over from the previous year.

-Jim promoted a meeting with Randhi, Simon, him and Tobias Vanderhoop (Tribal Council Chairperson). There was discussion about having a deadline for the agreement. Simon talked about the possibility of responding to a fire emergency on a case by case basis based on what's covered in the safety agreement and what is not. Jim said there are differences between not responding at all and deciding to show up and determining if aid can be given.

-Simon talked passionately about the liability both he, members of his department and the fire department itself incurs without an agreement. The Board responded by saying the community needs to be protected.

-Spencer said that there should be a deadline. Simon said if this amended agreement can't be signed off on by both governments then the agreement that is in place from 4 years ago stays in effect. That agreement, Simon said, only allows the fire department to respond to the residential dwellings on tribal lands.

Jim asked Adam to draft a letter to the Tribe stating a need for a deadline to approve the current amended agreement and to set up the next meeting for public safety between the Town and the Tribe.

-Next on the agenda is New Business and a review and approval of the contract for the Public Archeological Lab. - Adam explained that PAL will be doing an archeological survey of the foundation of the old Lighthouse Keeper's residence as part of the overall excavation. This survey is included in the Section 106 Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and Mass Historic that came with the passage of the lighthouse deed.

Spencer made a motion to approve the PAL Contract . Julianne seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was a review and approval of the Oxbow Associates contract for the lighthouse relocation.

-Adam explained the contract is do the necessary reports for the ConCom permit as it relates to protecting resources in the area where the lighthouse is being moved to.

Julianne made a motion to approve the Oxbow Associates contract. Spencer seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was a review and approval of the contract for Tetra Tech Associates for the lighthouse relocation.

-Adam explained the contract is to hire the consulting group that will specifically do oversight and handling of the lead soil issue the Town inherited when it took possession of the property from the Coast Guard.

Tetra Tech will manage the contaminated soil on site during the excavation and move of the structure.

Spencer made a motion to approve the Tetra Tech contract. Julianne seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was a discussion about the closure of the Aquinnah Circle Road one way beginning April 15<sup>th</sup>.

-Adam stated he had agreed to Peter Temple's request to head up a committee to mitigate the effects of the partial road closure that could extend to Memorial Day weekend.

Spencer made a motion to create an Ad Hoc Committee to address the traffic concerns likely to occur because of the partial road closure of the Aquinnah Circle Road from April 15<sup>th</sup> to May 25<sup>th</sup>. The motion also stated that Adam, Randhi, Jay, a member of the VTA and/or Island Transport and an elected representative of the shop owners should be members of this committee. Julianne seconded.

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

-In Selectmen's Other Business a letter to the Assessors asking forgiveness of property taxes for the recently acquired 13 & 9 Aquinnah Circle was read and approved. Jim signed the letter.

-Simon showed the certificates he and Jay got for safety vehicle driving. He also showed the federal safety code manual that has been recently adopted by the State.

-Simon reported new external stairs have been installed for the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the FD Building. Simon asked that recently acquired emergency management safety equipment be stored in the garage at 13 Aquinnah Circle.

The Board, by consensus agreed to allow garage storage use of FD Equipment at 13 Aquinnah Circle.

-Simon reported he now has 12 firefighters on staff.

-Peter reported on the operating funds for the town. Property tax money is now coming in and so far there hasn't been a need to dip into the borrowing RAN to pay bills.

-Richard passed the keys to the Gay Head Light to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen, declaring the town now as official owners of the property.

There was a toast (non alcoholic bubbly) and celebratory statements all around.

-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 6:20 pm.