

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting 1/5/2016  
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

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

Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Police Sgt Paul Manning, Gazette Reporter Alex Elvin, DPW Director Jay Smalley, Town Accountant Emily Day, Fire Chief Simon Bollin, Lighthouse Advisory Board Members Elise LeBovit and Jim Pickman\*

\*On Conference Phone

The meeting began at 5:34 pm.

-1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda under Old Business was a review of minutes from the December 15<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

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

-1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda under New Business was a review of the Request For Proposals (RFP) for an outside group contracted for one year to do seasonal tours of the lighthouse. Jim P gave the history of how the RFP has come about. He explained what the town would receive monetarily for the service to be provided. He said that the RFP clearly outlines the conditions in place with the Planning Board special permit about the operation of the lighthouse for tours and special events. He said that whoever is hired will have to follow the same memorandum of understanding conditions that were put into place in order for the Lighthouse to be given to the town. He explained everything in the RFP and the timeline for the submission of proposals and the dates for review and approval.

-Spencer asked about the licensing fee (\$10K for the year and estimated revenues). Where did the numbers come from? Jim said it was mostly based on numbers the museum gave while it operated the facility.

-Jim N said the threshold amount of \$80K to start revenue sharing seemed high and should be a negotiated amount in the RFP.

Jim made a motion to change the wording after \$80,000 to, "or over such amount as shall be negotiated." Julianne seconded.

-There was discussion about the Museum's operating overhead and if the gross revenue amount could be higher or lower. Elise talked about the revenue that will come from the two lighthouse sites now available as opposed to one in the past. Jim P said the gross revenue amount of \$80K was an amount from the museum from 2014 when they had a full season to work with.

-Adam said the change is important in that it gives the licensing negotiation for the awarded contractor flexibility in figuring out how much they can generate in gross revenue and what the town can equitably anticipate in additional revenue.

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

Jim made a motion to approve the RFP as amended. Julianne seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was further discussion about Parks & Recreation committee and the town's current community programs that would be a part of it. Elise passed out photo albums and gave a history of her involvement in the various programs associated with P & R. There was discussion about the vision of the Aquinnah Circle and her involvement with the Land Bank Advisory Board. She advocated her continued involvement.

-Next was a reserve fund transfer request that Emily proposed to pay for the sailing program. There was discussion about prior year bills and how they would be paid

Jim made a motion to appropriate \$5K from the reserve fund to pay the current year sailing camp bill and Christmas tree from the recent Aquinnah Holiday Party. Julianne seconded.

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

-Next on the Agenda was a review of the recent lot acquisitions up behind the Lighthouse. The Board looked at the Assessor's Map showing abutting lots 24 and 33 now being able to give the town public access to the North Head Land Bank Property. At the same time, the Board looked at the Moshup's Trail Lot that the Town and the Vineyard

Conservation Society were working on to bring into conservation with other lots the VCS holds along the area north of the road.

-Next on the Agenda was a request from the Assessor's Office to pay for the interim revaluation of property with funds from the reserve fund. Adam asked the Board to table the request as he and Emily were trying to figure out an alternative strategy to pay for the service that had taken place back in September.

Jim made a motion to table the request. Julianne seconded.

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

-In Other Selectmen's Business, Elise requested that the BOS recommend a review of the Lighthouse Keeper Job Description. There was discussion about the job responsibilities and how they might change with the new licensing arrangement for a different contractor doing lighthouse tours.

By consensus, The Board agreed to have the JD for the Lighthouse Keeper reviewed by the Personnel Committee.

-In Other Business, Jay Smalley submitted a letter about repairs needed to the spiles that are part of Vernon Welch's Lease Lot. He explained they are rotting and need to be replaced. He discussed the maintenance issues needed for the shed as well.

It was agreed that Jay can line up the people necessary to get work done. The Board will pass along the correspondence request to counsel for review and approval.

-Jay also requested to have the bags stored from R. Ackerman's failed oyster farm removed from the back end of the town hall campus property. He said the space is needed for DPW equipment.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to the request.

-In Other Business, Simon said that the fire truck water pumper is beyond repair and needs to be replaced. He said that a new truck specifically designed for the fire department will fit the needs of the town going forward.

-Jay said that he could take the old truck and make it into a plow truck. He would take the water tank off and convert the vehicle into both a plow and sander for snow and ice removal. Simon said the new truck will probably cost \$400K.

-In Other Business Adam brought up a recent request from Chilmark to work in conjunction with the Army Corp to obtain from the Menemsha Pond dredge 3,000 cubic yards of sand to be trucked up from the Lobsterville Beach area for eventual use by the town for replenishment in the Squibnocket Beach project. Adam said that he had been in consultation with Asst. Harbormaster Bret Stearns who relayed the request from Chuck Hodgkinson about the sand needs. He said that Chilmark would utilize Keene Construction to dump truck haul the sand at the corner of Lobsterville Rd just before the jersey barriers where the road washed out from Hurricane Sandy.

-There was discussion about how many dump trucks were needed to haul the sand and if the amount would impact the replenishment of sand on Lobsterville Beach. Adam said there would have to be a duty detail since the trucks would make the road a construction zone during the hauling. He said he would notify the Conservation Commission as well.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to allow the removal of sand from the Menemsha Pond dredge project for Chilmark's beach replenishment program up to 3,000 cubic yards. A police detail will be on hand when truck removal begins and ConCom notification to occur with possible approval needed before the project begins.

-In Other Business, Adam showed a document from the MV Refuse District going to the state legislature that needed Board approval so that the District can go forward with the borrowing they had approval of at last year's town meetings from the six towns funds needed to upgrade the regional facility.

Jim made a motion to approve the language of the MV Refuse District Act validating action taken by the Martha's Vineyard Refuse Disposal and Resource Recovery District be put on the Spring town warrant after approval by the State House Legislature. Julianne seconded.

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

-In Other Business, Spencer read into the record the letter sent by James DeCoulos regarding the abutting property owned by Steve Yaffee.

-In Other Business, Adam said he'd be on vacation during the second monthly meeting of the Board and would they want to meet without him? They said they'll wait until the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in February.

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

Hearing none, a motion was made and seconded to end the meeting.

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

-The meeting ended at 7:08 pm.