

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting 10/04/2016  
Aquinnah Town Hall

Members present: Chairman Juli Vanderhoop, Jim Newman, Gary Haley

Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Police Chief Randhi Belain, DPW Director Jay Smalley, DPW Assistant Frank Perez, Town Moderator Mike Hebert, Mark Foster, Allen Rugg, Personnel Committee Chairman Kathy Newman, BOA Chairman Michael Stutz, Jay MacCloud

The meeting began at 5:34 pm.

-1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda under Old Business was review of the minutes from the 9/6 and 9/20 Selectmen's meetings.

Jim made a motion to approve the minutes from September 6<sup>th</sup> as presented. Juli seconded

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

Jim made a motion to approve the minutes from September 20<sup>th</sup> as presented. Juli seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda under Old Business was a meeting with Chief Belain and an update on street number changes for State and Lighthouse Road. Randhi said that there are still issues with emergency services and cell providers working on establishing new street numbers but they should be resolved soon. Randhi said there will be a meeting with him, Simon, Angela and Adam to restart the process of continuing guidelines for street number changes in the next month. Adam said back in July the process was questioned and stopped so that town counsel could determine whether or not public hearings were needed for the road changes. Adam reported that TC's research into the matter found only street **name** changes needed public hearings with abutter notification and legal ads in the newspapers, not residential road numbers. Given that, Adam said the changeover needs to occur according to mandates handed down by the state emergency services departments. There was discussion about number changes occurring 30' or 200' apart and how that might affect the numbers for the town hall campus. Renumbering Moshup Trail was also discussed.

-Next on the agenda under new business was a meeting with the BOA and the 10 year tax projection report they had put together by Angela Cwyinski. Michael said the spreadsheet summarizes all revenue and expenses of the town and what was done was to create a tool so that the town can explore the impact going forward for financial decisions. The last 10 years of tax increases was added up to show the budget rising 80%, twice that of the state average. Using those numbers, an 8% average annual increase was projected over the next 10 years to show what the budget will be in 2026. Michael said the report is incomplete because there still needs to be an accounting of the debt the town will occur with the purchase of the new fire truck as well as other capital projects. But he said taxes are projected to double in ten years with a \$420K override possible in 2026. Michael talked about a 10 year old DOR analysis of town accounting practices and suggested changes in it that have not been followed up on. He encouraged a re-reading of that report and also that a FinCom be appointed as soon as possible.

-Juli said that report will be looked at by the rest of the town's financial team for comments/suggestions and the necessary follow up.

-Next on the Agenda was a meeting of the Aquinnah Cultural Center and the lease for the Vanderhoop Homestead. Adam said the ACC had requested a postponement until the next BOS meeting.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to meet with the ACC about the lease on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

Next on the agenda was a meeting with Mike Hebert about FinCom Appointments.

Mike introduced Mark Foster and Allen Rugg as two of the 3 people (Tom Murphy was off island), he said sent in letters of interest and had a meeting with to discuss the Finance and Advisory Committee. He said he has appointed them to the committee and that the appointments are until the end of June. He needs only to have them sworn in by the Town Clerk. Board members thanked Mike for all the work he had done recruiting and welcomed Mark and Allen to the FinCom.

-Next on the agenda was a review of the volunteers for the Parks & Recreation committee. The Board reviewed the names and their letters of interest. There are 7 people interested in serving:

1. Sylvia Jackson; 2. Barbara Okun; 3. Elise LeBovit; 4. Nancy Leport; 5. Barney Suman; 6. Rachel McMullen; 7. Macey Dunbar.

-Adam said the committee could be 3 or 5 people, if the Board so desired. He also said he's looking for people to serve on a Capital Improvement Committee so maybe those not selected for this committee could volunteer for that instead.

The Board, by consensus, took the list of volunteers under advisement for consideration at the next meeting October 18th.

-Next on the Agenda was a meeting with Liz Witham and Ken Wentworth to report on the media exhibit for the lighthouse at #9 Aquinnah Circle. Adam said Liz and Ken had requested a postponement until the next BOS meeting after the exhibit closes so that they can give a full report.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to meet with the ACC about the lease on October 18<sup>th</sup>.

-In Other Business, Maggie Downey from Cape Light Compact gave a power point presentation on proposed grid modification changes being proposed by Eversource and National Grid. Her slide show presentation showed how the State Dept of Public Utilities is requiring power companies to come up with proposals to advance savings in electrical usage. After the presentation, Gary and Maggie had a conversation about who in the end is going to pay for all the mandated upgrades.

-In Other Business, Adam reported on the Menemsha Pond dredge project. He said to everyone's surprise, the dredge company that was terminated by the Army Corp last winter for not getting the project completed and causing damage to certain areas in the channel and along Aquinnah roads and parking lots, has been rehired by the Los Angeles bonding company that took over the project as a result of the termination of the contract. The insurance agency took Jway's low bid to reenter the project and everything is once again in place for them to mobilize after the derby ends and to finish by the end of January. Adam said the project will be different this time as the piping to Lobsterville Beach will not run along the roads but instead will go out through the open sea channel (or perhaps up and over the rip rap jetty wall on the West Basin side), and run along the beach to the spoils sight. There was discussion about giving part of the dredge sand to Chilmark for replenishing Squibnocket beach.

-Juli 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 6:34pm