

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 11/1/2016
Aquinnah Town Hall

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

Also present: Sgt Paul Manning, Chief Randhi Belain, Fire Chief Simon Bollin, CPS Chairman Derrill Bazy, Berta Welch, Adrienne Ignacio, Elise Lebovit, Town Accountant Emily Day, MV Museum Director Betsey Mayhew, Tribe Natural Resources Director Bret Stearns.

The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

-1st on the agenda under Old Business was review of the minutes from the 10/18 Selectmen's meeting.

Jim made a motion to approve the minutes from October 18th as presented. Gary seconded

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

-Next on the agenda under Old Business was a meeting with Berta, representing the Aquinnah Cultural Center (ACC) and Derrill Bazy, as Chair of the Town's Community Preservation Committee (CPC). Berta stated that the current lease for the use of the Vanderhoop Homestead expired in August and she asked the Board that with the renewal the licensing fee could go from \$5000 per year down to \$2,500 (which is what the ACC has been paying the last two years). There was discussion about the overall operation of the museum and how the ACC has tried to attract more visitors. Berta talked about the artisan's festival and the lighthouse group trying to bring more people to the building. Derrill talked about how the mortgage has been paid off so expenses will be reduced. There was discussion about CPC money available for maintenance upkeep. Weddings on the property and fees were discussed and how they affect museum operations. The payoff of the loan and low interest rates were talked about. Different restoration and continuing restoration projects were discussed.

-Juli said she's okay to re-lease the homestead for another 5 years. She said she's found grants that would benefit the ACC. There was discussion about weddings at the lighthouse vs weddings done at the ACC and surrounding grounds and how they were interconnected. Derrill talked about the need to preserve the mission of the ACC and that licensing situation was originally intended to pay off the loan.

-Jim said he wants to know what are the costs to maintain the Homestead.

There was consensus to take the agreement under advisement until costs are looked at and an amount could be proposed.

-Next on the agenda under Old Business were appointments to be made for the Parks & Recreation Committee.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to hold off on appointing anyone to the committee until the next meeting so that a committee member job description was available for review

Next on the agenda under Old Business was the contract recommended from the Town Campus Study Committee on the results of the RFQ for architectural services to do a space needs study. They were recommending Keenan & Kenny to do the study for \$15K.

Jim made a motion to accept the contract from the study committee to hire Keenan & Kenny for the contractual price of \$15K to do a campus space needs assessment. Gary seconded.

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

Juli signed the contract.

-Next on the agenda under New Business was approval of the warrant. Jim read the article recommending office hours for Town Hall employees and agreed that it should be enforced. There was discussion about the DOR report from '06 and the recommendations made in it. Jim said recommendations about boat excise tax and residential exemption should be put back on the table for consideration. There was discussion about the Assessor's being certified. Jim also discussed the recommendation in the report that the Assessor's be appointed and not elected.

Juli read through the articles. There was discussion about the CPS borrowing article.

Jim made a motion to accept the warrant as presented, Gary seconded.

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

Juli, Jim and Gary signed the warrant.

-In Other Business, Jim talked about the Lighthouse Licensing agreement to continue with the museum. He said the overhead to have the town take over and the responsibility is something the town is not ready to undertake. Betsey reported that the overall gross revenue figures for all the lighthouses they operate was over \$100K. For the Gay Head Light the revenue this year was \$84K of which \$19,412K was given to the Town. She said \$30K was for personnel and another \$10K for incidental costs. She said the MV Museum enjoys the relationship with the town and running the lighthouse and hopes it continues.

-In Other Business, Emily said she'd come up with a calendar for the budget review with the FinCom. She said there are still recommendations in the DOR report that should be reviewed again and possibly adhered to. Jim talked about how far the Assessor's office has come from where it was when she took over. He complimented her for the work done so far.

-Going back to Other Business, the Board met with Bret to talk about the recent geographic oil spill response exercise that happened last week. He talked about how the plan to place booms was updated based on how effective the exercise was in hazardous spill management. Bret showed charts and pics on how the response was to be set up to protect Menemsha Pond by diverting the "spill" into West Basin. He talked about putting a spill onto sand so that the hazardous material can be recovered. Simon and Bret identified the different groups that were involved. He explained how the exercise played out. He said the outcome will change the response plan so that it can be enacted regardless of who is personnel at the time.

-There was discussion about how the response would differ depending on different tides and people involved. Incident command protocols were talked about. Simon talked about the need for the spill recovery to go towards Aquinnah because it's the best place so attempt a recovery. There was discussion about how long it took to get the oil displacement gear in place (30 minutes). Different lengths of boom and their diameters were talked about.

-Bret said he'd like to see an MOU between Chilmark, Aquinnah and the Tribe so that more of these prepared responses is undertaken and everyone who is part of a rescue service can be actively involved. Simon talked about the resources the SSA has as well.

-In New Business, the Board went back and reviewed the proposed amendment with Bret for the Right of Entry (ROE) the town and tribe has in place with the Army Corp for dredging to Lobsterville Beach. He explained that JWay now wants to run the pipeline down the beach along the tow of the sand (the point where the dune meets the beach sand). Bret said the language of the ROE has been changed so that the pipe and equipment can run along the beach.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to resign the ROE so that the contractor can run equipment along Lobsterville Beach.

There was discussion about the oil spill exercise going up the chain of command to Homeland security and how the result of which maybe the requirement to have the town get funding for the DCR boat the town has in storage.

-Simon said his fireman were engaged in fire burn exercises in the state forest this past week.

-In Other Business, Jay reported that he has put out for bids for snow and sand removal and only Giles and Co. brought back a bid. Jim made a motion to accept the 2 year contract for David Giles & Co. for snow plowing and sand. Gary seconded.

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

-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 6:46 pm.