

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 4/26/2016
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Vice Chairman Julianne Vanderhoop, Jim Newman

Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Summer parking manager Carolyn Feltz*, Triathlon Coordinator Jen Passafiume, Gary Haley, Police Chief Randhi Belain, Macey Dunbar, Elise Lebovit, Asst. Assessor Angela Cywinski, Treasurer Sibel Suman

*Via Conference Phone.

-The meeting began at 5:32 pm.

1st on the agenda under Old Business was a review of the minutes from the April 19th meeting.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to postpone review of the minutes until the next meeting.

-1st on the agenda under New Business was a meeting with the Cliff Shop Business Owners. The meeting was postponed until May 3rd.

-Next on the agenda was a meeting with the Cemetery Commissioners. No one from the commission was present.

-Next on the agenda was a meeting with the Summer Parking Director to discuss the raising of parking and beach permit fees. Carolyn said there could be a raise for Philbin Beach parking stickers from \$35 to \$40 for local residents and \$50, \$75 and \$100 for one, two and three week + summer resident parking.

-There was also a proposal to raise the Circle Parking Lot fee to \$20 for 3+ hours. There was discussion about refunds being five an hour? Carolyn discussed refunds at different times of the day. Juli said that the parking lot should go to \$10 for 2 - 4 pm and stay that way since in the summer that is prime beach time.

-There was discussion about no charge for use of the bathrooms and having a maintenance schedule to keep the bathrooms clean. Carolyn said a donation box should be still considered.

The Board reviewed revenue (\$20K), and expense (\$12,697 in labor costs).

-There was discussion about the bathroom solar panels. There was discussion about the costs of other town parking privileges in Chilmark and West Tisbury. Board members talked about the training that goes on in June to get everybody ready for July and August as well as what is dispensed in the soda machines.

Juli made a motion to accept the proposed increase fees made by Carolyn, including \$10 after 2 pm. Jim seconded. The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-Next on the agenda was a meeting for the 3rd annual Vineyard Triathlon. Jen Passafiume talked about the event occurring in September. She discussed the safety measures for the event.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to the event.

-Next on the agenda was the annual town meeting warrant. Adam went through several changes from the last time the Selectmen reviewed the document. Board of Assessors requests for funding are in, the solar array by-law is out. The Board, by consensus, agreed to the changes and gave overall approval of the 44 warrant article document.

-In Other Business, Angela talked about the cumulative changes in the tax levy and the rise in cost for municipal management. She went through the estimated tax rate and the different increases. She went through what the impact in costs will be for the tax rate in future fiscal years. She said there has been a 4 ½% average increase in each budget. She said an annual override of \$50K will be needed to maintain the excess tax levy. Elise asked what category stands out the most for expenses. There was discussion about school costs, municipal services such as fire and police and overall town management.

-There was discussion about regional assessments and how they add to the budget. Juli said there has been growth but it is organic. Jim said there is an effort to keep Aquinnah the same which has affected new growth. Angela said

there is 1 square mile that is tax exempt. Jim said that the consequences of a lack of growth would be a rise in taxes. It is just the way it is. Jim said there should be community sit down to discuss the future of taxes and growth on the Vineyard. He strongly feels that there is a need to prevent McMansion growth but at the same time find more ways to tax the residential component in town.

-Elise said there should be a comparison of Aquinnah's community with other cape community's. She talked about seniors staying in place.

-In Other Business, the Board took up the appointment of a member of the MV Museum to the Gay Head Lighthouse Advisory Board. Adam said it should be Betsey Mayhew.

Juli made a motion to appoint Betsey Mayhew to the Gay Head Lighthouse Advisory Board until June 30th, 2016. Jim seconded.

The Board voted 2 – 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 end the meeting.

The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-The meeting ended at 6:35pm.