

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen  
Minutes of Meeting 3/21/2017  
Aquinnah Town Hall

Members present: Vice Chairman Jim Newman, Gary Haley

Also present: Town Administrator Adam Wilson, Fire Chief Simon Bollin, Police Chief Randhi Belain Jay MacCleod, Personnel Committee Member Alex Taylor, Tri-Town EMS Chief Ben Retmeir, Jim & Barbara Wallin, Town Moderator Mike Hebert, DPW Director Jay Smalley, Personnel Committee Chairman Kathy Newman, Town Asst. Assessor/Statistician Angela Cywinski, Megan Ottens Sergeant.

The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda under Old Business was a review of the minutes from the 3/7 meeting.

Gary made a motion to accept the minutes from March 7th, Gary seconded.

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

-1<sup>st</sup> on the agenda for New Business was a meeting to go over the proposal of a new classification & compensation scale from the personnel committee based on the recommendations made from the Collins Center C & C study. Kathy gave background about the Mass Center's procedural review and what her committee did to amend it so that it was fair to everyone who participated in the study. By doing this, she they also were able to reduce the proposed combined salary increases from \$40K down to \$12K. The Committee recommends eliminating the 1<sup>st</sup> grade that was established solely for the town administrator and move the starting pay scale one step to the right. Alex said the proposed scale would be over ten years and have 3% raises in between steps and a 15% difference between the grades rather than the current 2.5 and 10. The Selectmen looked at the draft of everyone's position in it, including the positions under personal Services Contracts and others who weren't even in the original study. Kathy said certain position's pay scales are anomalies based on the number of years employees have been put into their jobs. -There was discussion about the higher graded positions having a scale more heavily weighted than the lower grades. There was discussion about the position grades being too high because of a "median average" that Angela has been doing with her own statistical analysis. Kathy asked that the Selectmen need also to establish how many actual hours each position should be accounted for in determining the overall payroll budget. She said it's important to figure out how many hours each job position demands and to create a template for each position that is paid by the hour.

-Next on the agenda was the "We Stand Together" request. Jim Wallin read the article request and talked about how the town's police resources should not be used for immigration evaluations and manpower raids.

Jim made the motion to approve a warrant article asking voters to support police non-involvement in immigration affairs. Gary seconded.

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

-Adam asked if the article's language should also be a non-binding question. Randhi clarified what the department's status would be in terms of info providing versus manpower. Megan Ottens Sergeant talked about stronger language preventing involvement with ICE. There was discussion about having a "Coffee with a Cop" event to talk about immigration issues and what's the state's position is on the issue. Jim said the goal is to not have the police become a local enforcement agency for ICE. There was discussion about changing the language of the warrant article on the floor. Randhi scheduled a Coffee with a Cop discussion for April 6<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

-Next on the agenda was a requested edit to the Tri-Town EMS Agreement. Tri-Town Ambulance Chief Ben Retmeir talked about the proposed change in reimbursements for the capital improvement fund going from 80% operations – 20% CIF to 75-25. The change would start with the FY '19 budget. He said the 5% increase would

move the service faster to replace equipment that comes to an end of its useful life cycle. Jim said Tri-Town is buying a new ambulance and its coming to Aquinnah.

Gary made the motion to amend the Tri-Town EMS agreement so that reimbursements to the capital improvement fund goes from 20% to 25, Jim seconded.

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

-In Other Business, the Cape Light Compact agreement was briefly discussed. Mike talked about how the compact is self determining. He said he'd like to do more research with the CLC Director and then come back with the proposal fully vetted.

The Board, by consensus, agreed to take the matter under advisement until the next meeting.

-In Other Business, Len talked about the current MV Museum licensing agreement and a recommendation from the Lighthouse Advisory Board changing the hours of tours operation so that the lighthouse will be open for tours at 10 am instead of 11. Len said it will also need to be approved by the planning board as well.

Jim made the motion to amend the MV Museum licensing agreement so that starting hours for seasonal tours will be at 10 am instead of 11. Gary seconded.

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

-In Other Business, Len also showed the repair work needed to support the deck at the lantern room. There was an RFP put out by the advisory board to repair the work before the summer season begins. International Chimney was the only company to return a bid on the project. \$84,500. Len said this work will set up the other work being proposed in a grant with the Mass Historic Council later next year. He said once he gets approval from the MHC for the proposed repairs; it should take 3 weeks to do the work.

-Gary made a motion to approve the contract with International Chimney for \$84,500 from the Lighthouse's gift/restoration fund for repairs to the Gay Head Light. Jim seconded.

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

In Other Business, an appeal letter was read from Susan Lindholm proposing to donate a bench and plaque in honor of her recently deceased husband Kyle. Jay discussed what the costs would be and where the bench would go.

Jim made a motion to accept the request of a donation for a park bench in the Aquinnah Circle. Gary seconded.

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

Adam asked that the Selectmen vote for the MHC Authorizations. He said certificates of authorization from the Board are needed in advance of an application being submitted by the Lighthouse Advisory Board to the Mass Historic commission for the MHC's Preservation Projects Fund.

Jim made a motion to approve the certificate of authorization for the MHC Contract. Gary seconded.

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

-Adam then requested a certificate of authorization for the Board to approve for the same application submission to engage the MHC in a preservation restriction should the grant be approved.

Gary made a motion to approve the certificate of authorization for preservation restriction. Jim seconded.

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

-In Other Business, Simon brought to the Board the paper work for the purchase of the new fire truck. He said it will be delivered by late June. He is working on an agreement with an interlocal agency for all supplies. He'll bring back the agreement when all the details have been worked out.

-In Other Business, Jay also produced a contract to have the interior of the lighthouse painted before the start of the tour season. The amount is 2/3rds less than previous years because of the restoration work being done prior to the painting of the windows, doors and the spiral staircase.

Jim made a motion to approve the painting contract for the Gay Head Light. Gary seconded.

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

There was discussion about the proposed barrier railing that is supposed to go along the circle road which doesn't seem financially feasible with the estimate he got back (\$22K). There was discussion about where the funding will come from to put up a barrier with long wooden poles separating a pedestrian walkway from vehicular traffic.

-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 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.**

-The meeting ended at 6:41 pm.