

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 6/21/2011
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Jim Newman, Chairman, Spencer Booker, Beverly Wright

Also in attendance: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator, Paul Wilkins, Tri-Town Chief, Chief Randhi Belain, Roxanne Ackerman, Laurie Perry, Chief Walter Delany, Town Clerk Carolyn Feltz, Harbormaster Brian Vanderhoop, Hollis Smith, William Vanderhoop, Jim San Filippo.

The meeting began at 5:35 pm.

-Beverly made a motion to accept the minutes from the 6/7 meeting. Spencer seconded.

The Board voted 3 – 0 to approve. The motion passed.

-1st on the agenda was the introduction of the new Tri-Town Chief, Paul Wilkins. He handed out the ambulance service's mission statement and stated his hope to recruit new help in the fall. He is looking to improve communication between his department and the 3 towns going forward. There was a report on the Aquinnah ambulance and what's been done to get it to pass state inspection. Paul stated it has been certified. There was discussion about coverage that has been 24 hours since the end of May. Paul reported that he's started a community vegetable garden in the area next to the playground for his staff to tend to while they are on duty at the fire station. Paul spoke of wanting the service to be a helping hand for both the Town and the Tribe.

-There was discussion about the landing area at the circle should there be a need for a helicopter evacuation. Paul talked about the effort done last year during hurricane season in reaching out to seniors during an emergency. Spencer asked about the Tri-Town Committee and the new Chief's thoughts on their make-up. Paul talked about the different responsibilities the Committee, Police Chiefs and Selectmen all have in making the service organized and efficient. There was discussion about the complex tasks Paul has in answering to different town leaders. He said that Tri-Town has been given a black eye in terms of its reputation and wants to change that. There was discussion about recruiting more volunteers for the fire department. The Board thanked "Zeke" for coming to the meeting.

-Next on the agenda was a request from the Town's financial team to recruit additional help in tax title takings. Adam explained that the current allotted man hour situation between the Assessor, Tax Collector, and Treasurer leaves absent the time needed to legally bind properties in court for tax title. There was discussion about having an additional person contracted short term to take on the properties already identified by the Assessor as having liens for back taxes and the Town's need to protect its right to collect. Adam stated the person would have to have background training and that the job may be part time. The Board was receptive to the idea but wanted Adam to come back with a job description, including hours. There was discussion about possible different funding sources to allow the part time hire.

-The third agenda item was representation to the federal hearings for off shore wind energy. There was discussion about Camille Rose having been the Town's representative and Megan Sargent making a request to be an alternate. The Board talked about the need for travel reimbursement since most of the meetings are off island.

Spencer made a motion to appoint Camille as the Aquinnah representative sitting in on the meetings of the Federal Task Force on Ocean Energy. Jim seconded.

The Board voted 3 – 0 to approve. The motion passed.

Spencer made a motion to appoint Megan Otten-Sargent as the Alternate representative for the Town sitting in on meetings of the Federal Task Force on Ocean Energy. Jim seconded.

The Board voted 3 – 0 to approve. The motion passed.

Jim asked Adam to write letters to Camille & Megan notifying them of the Board's appointment decision.

-On the agenda next was a review of the Special Town Warrant articles. Jim suggested that the meeting date be changed from July 7th to the 12th, the rationale being that there are still other articles needed to be written and added to the warrant. By consensus the Board agreed to the date change.

-Adam brought up the request from the Cable Advisory Committee needing a vote from the Board motioning not to renew the current television contract and to extend the negotiations for a new contract another 3 months. Beverly asked who Aquinnah's rep was to the Committee. Adam said it was Richard Skidmore.

Beverly made a motion that the negotiation for a new cable television license by Comcast be extended until September 16, 2011. Spencer seconded.

The Board voted 3 – 0 to approve. The motion passed.

-Next on the agenda was a review of the Town's web site. Beverly stated that she wants to be involved in the web site as one of her projects for the year. Beverly asked that there be more information posted on the web site. She cited that a family member needed the application to upgrade a septic system and that the form is not available to download from the Board of Health's page on the site. She wants the site to have a glossary of terms. Adam said he'd had a follow up discussion with Liz Witham (Town Webmaster), to establish ways to make the web site more accessible to Town Hall employees and to come in to do additional training. Adam said he has to gather those documents that are only available as hard copy and have them all scanned in so they can be properly posted. Jim said Beverly should discuss with Liz ways to make the site a better information tool.

-The Board was given the reformatted Memorandum of Agreement between the Town and Tribe. Randhi stated he had reviewed it and was fine with the change in the language of the document. The Board signed both copies as well as Randhi and then was passed onto Laurie Perry to be countersigned by the Tribe.

-Roxanne Ackerman made a request of the Board to obtain another aquaculture oyster lease. Jim told her to see Adam to find what would be the proper procedure in making that request.

-Adam passed on a list of recent hires for both parking lot, beach and bathroom attendants submitted by Town Clerk Carolyn Feltz.

Spencer made a motion to approve the new hires and scheduled wages, Jim seconded.

The Board voted 3 – 0 to approve. The motion passed.

-Adam brought up the price listing for the new fire/rescue truck chassis. Walter said the delivery of the truck is 6 – 8 weeks. Walter said Carl Widdiss will take the old vehicle off. Adam is to send off the purchase order with the agreement by the Board confirming the sale price and funding through the warrant article passed at town meeting in May.

-Adam presented the Board with a rough draft from the Preservation Committee for a warrant article requesting 4K to help fund the MVC's housing needs assessment. There was discussion about how the financial situation would work if Edgartown decided not to fund their share.

-Beverly asked about the Town employee parking lot by the Homestead. Adam reported that he and Jay (Smalley, Highway Superintendent), visited the site and that Jay had cut back the vegetation from the entryway road and put fill in to the road to prevent cars from "bottoming out". There is also a plan to borrow the necessary equipment from the Tribe so that the embanked sides of the lot can be leveled out.

-Jim asked that the Board go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter and then to reconvene back into open session afterwards.

Jim made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a personnel matter. Spencer seconded.
The roll call vote was Jim (Y), Spencer (Y) and Beverly (Y).

When the Board reconvened, they met with Berta Welch from the Aquinnah Cultural Center to discuss renewing the lease for the Vanderhoop Homestead. There was discussion about the \$20k rent due to offset the mortgage and how the ACC has only been able to pay 5K. Carolyn talked about a CPC payment that subsidizes the current lease rent payment. Berta talked about the current payment situation and how it has evolved in terms of payments to the town. She pointed out that the current lease has a provision that the town would complete renovation of the 2nd floor bathroom area. It hasn't been done. Jim said he wants to sit down with Darrell and talk about the payment situation. Jim wanted to know what the CPC can cover in the lease for the benefit of the Homestead. There was discussion about the security maintenance contract. Jim said that in a prior meeting it was agreed that the contract would be paid by the Town. There was talk of creating warrants to help pay for the upgrades to the Homestead.

-The Board met with members of the Shellfish Committee at 7:00 pm to go over the proposed draft of new shellfish regulations. The Selectmen and the Committee went through the pages one at a time and made corrections and revisions of the proposed document. There was discussion about the difference between the words "license" and "permit". It was agreed that only the word "license" would be used.

-There was discussion about sustenance fishing and members of the Tribe being able to shellfish without a license. Committee members agreed that family and individual shell fishing can be done having only a "Wamp" card. Beverly said there should be a separate section for the Tribe. Shellfish committee members stated that there is no exception for those seeking to commercially fish. They had to have a license from the Town.

- There was discussion about individuals only being allowed to have one permit from one town.

-There was agreement that the word "shall" is to be used more often than "may".

Language changes for 3.4.3 and 3.4.4 were changed as follows:

3.4.3 "per shellfish committee recommendation and BOS approval the commercial limit shall be reviewed and established annually."

3.4.4 add a majority rules clause with the temperature provision and having Saturday as a make-up day. Or if a determination that weather conditions are too dangerous to fish. Penalty for ignoring the red flag should be severe. There was discussion about the fisherman consensus to not fish and adding a red flag provision.

-There was discussion about fishing on holidays. The group moved on to residency requirements. There was talk of how guests should be allowed to fish with a family permit. There was discussion about fees being waived for senior citizens. There was talk about the transferability of licenses between family members.

-It was decided to eliminate the provision of someone having the right to shellfish for someone who is handicapped (2.5) It was decided to keep the minimum age to commercially shell fishing at 14.

-There was much discussion that individuals who commercially scallop need to show documents that show they've lived in the town for 12 continuous months. Committee and Board members talked about the application review process and the process to apply starting earlier than in years past. There was also talk about deferring payments when there is financial hardship and having a hardship clause that the selectmen can hear and approve. Adam said he'd make it 3.5 and add it in.

-Hollis said he'd like to see the language for penalties and enforcement that is written in the Edgartown regulations be adopted into Aquinnah's. Hollis and Adam talked about the application form being available from the BOS office. It was suggested that everyone has to once again fill out the long form for the commercial scallop license.

-There was elimination of certain commercial licenses and uniform fees for others. There was also the cancellation of certain species of fishing that aren't in the Aquinnah ponds. There was talk about changing over from a family license to a commercial one.

-Jim asked Committee Members about the appointment of Tribal officials as Deputy Shellfish Constables. He said the appointments were temporary but the feeling was, they should be permanent. Buddy said it was never reviewed by the Committee. Jim said the appointments had to be made due to liability issues with them using Town boats and equipment. Brian said it is good to have more feet on the ground as far as enforcing regulations. Committee members understood that from the liability issue, if there was continued use of Town equipment, then everyone had to be an appointed official for the Town.

-The meeting adjourned to Tuesday, July 5th at 7:00 pm to finish review of the drafted regulations.

-The meeting ended at 8:30 pm.