

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 8/16/2011
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

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

*Arrived after the minute's approval.

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator, Jim Hickey, Lance Pope, Bret Stearns, Paul Manning
The meeting began at 5:04 pm.

The Board took up minutes acceptance from 8/2's regular and executive session meetings

Beverly made a motion to accept the minutes from August 2nd's regular and executive session meetings.

Jim seconded

The Board voted 2 – 0 to approve. The motion passed.

-Next on the Agenda was a public hearing regarding proposed taxi regulations. Jim read the posted public notice. Adam stated the hearing had been posted in the MV Times. Spencer at this point joined the meeting. Adam stated that he had included an addendum to the proposed regulations to include a maximum rate schedule for fares to and from Aquinnah as well as from the Airport. There was discussion with Jim Hickey, owner of Aquinnah Taxi, about the different rates charged by different companies in different towns. There was discussion about the posting of the rate schedule in the cabs. Adam stated he showed a copy of the regs to Chief Randhi Belain and that if there were any concerns about the follow up his department would have to do for licensing, he would address them. There was discussion about the selectmen deciding how many cab companies the Town should have based on need.

Beverly made a motion to adopt the edited regulations as presented. Spencer seconded.

There was brief discussion on the value of the licenses when companies are sold.

The Board voted 3 – 0 to approve. The motion passed. The Selectmen signed the new regulations.

-Next on the agenda was taking up the Tharpe petition article for reimbursement of funds paid in excess by Geoffrey for property taxation in prior years. Adam told Spa that he has been in touch with Nell Coogan, who is the aide to Representative Tim Madden and been given instructions to send 3 certified copies to his office in Boston and they will draft the legislation that needs to go to the floor for approval vote.

-Under Selectmen's other business, Bret Stearns came to the Board to talk about the maintenance plan that comes with the ZBA decision to pave Old South Road as part of a water reclamation project. He showed the Board a site plan of the project and explained that he would go to both the Board and the Tribal Council to get an agreement to take care to the road in the future because the County, who owns the road, is not capable of doing so. There was discussion about the 3 year overlay plan and if there are any defects in the project, the contractor will cover repair costs. There was discussion about the maintenance of the swale, catch basins done by the Tribe initially and then eventually by the Town. Jim said the Town will always maintain the road for safety reasons. Spencer said the road has been the responsibility of the town for 50 years so nothing will change. The eventual work down for the road after three years will only be a small increase in the highway department budget. Beverly asked that language in the agreement on Detention Basins and Grass Swales be changed to say, "The detention basin and grass swales should be inspected four times a year *by the Tribe in corporation with the Town of Aquinnah Highway*

Superintendent. Bret agreed to the change. There was discussion about the speed bumps being installed as well.

Beverly made a motion to accept the management draft plan with the agreed corrections and conditioned upon acceptance by the Tribal Council. Spencer seconded.

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

Adam asked Board members to sign off on the Vanderhoop lease agreement with the Aquinnah Cultural Council. He talked about the funds needed to fix the 2nd floor wiring and how he will secure bids from electricians to contract out the work. Board members signed the proposed 5 year lease.

-Adam stated he would move forward to advertise the petition submitted by NSTAR to meet with the Selectmen over pole replacement on Moshup's Trail. He said he'd schedule it for the 1st meeting in September (6th).

-Adam reported that there was damage done to the Cook Spring Well from mowing done by the State but that Mass DEP and White – Lynch Bros. moved quickly to identify the damage done to the well's vent pipe and have fixed the problem.

-Adam handed out the wind energy plan drafted by the MVC.

-Beverly brought up the idea of holding the summer resident's meeting in July instead of August because of rental concerns. Adam would make a note to schedule that meeting in July instead of August.

-Bret brought up the fact that he's been in consideration for an Assistant Harbormaster's position with the town for a period of time. He brought up that it is in the Tribe/Town agreement and if incident occur where Bret has to act as a harbormaster and not resource director, he should be authorized to do so. He did say he needs to attend some meetings and get a few credentials in place but would like to have the appointment made. There was discussion about having a stipend and what coverage Bret would provide. Spencer asked questions about the position's responsibilities. Jim said there is also liability issues not having him appointed as the Assistant Harbormaster. There was talk about the possibility of having a stipend for the position in the next budget.

Spencer made a motion to appoint Bret as an Assistant Harbormaster for the town until June 30th, 2012. Beverly seconded.

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

There was discussion about the replacement NSTAR poles and their new height. Jim said he's looked into the burying process for the poles but there are a lot of upfront costs + a million dollars per mile to do the actual work. He said that residents would have to pay an increase in their electric rates after a vote to approve the idea at a town meeting.

-A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. The Board voted 3 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting ended at 5:50 pm.