

Aquinnah Board of Selectmen
Minutes of Meeting 9/06/2011
Aquinnah Town Hall Selectmen's Mtg Room

Members present: Jim Newman, Chair, Beverly Wright

Also present: Adam Wilson, Town Administrator, Planning Board Chair Peter Temple, Karen Corriveau (NSTAR), Mike Hebert, Gazette Reporter Remy Tumin, Beverly Evans, Police Chief Randhi Belain, Jennifer Lewis (American Tower Corporation), Sgt. Paul Manning

-The meeting began at 5:30 pm.

-Under Old Business, the minutes from 8/16 were discussed.

Beverly made a motion to accept the minutes from the August 16th Selectmen's meeting. Jim seconded.

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

-Under New Business the Board held a public hearing to take up the petition from NSTAR to add 9 midspan poles on the lower end of Moshup Trail. Karen stated the additional poles are needed to eliminate the drooping wiring the State has decided can no longer allow. The new poles will reduce the distance from 400 feet to 194. Peter talked about the meeting the PB/PRC had with NSTAR and some of the conditions that should be included in granting the petition. There was discussion about an additional request of NSTAR to make the street lamps come into compliance with the Town's lighting by-law. Peter said it would be especially useful for the lights that are at the top end of the trail and other street lights that produce unnecessary glare be changed. Beverly Evans of 1 Moshup Trail expressed her concern that the site plan presented is not accurate in terms of where the additional poles will go and asked that the pole in front of her property would be moved further down the property line by an additional 12 feet from where it is currently proposed to be installed. There was discussion about other pole replacements on Moshup Trail and other roads in town needing approval for the DAS system. Jennifer stated that ATC has all the approvals from the Town for the installation of its poles. There was discussion about the additional poles being needed to remediate an existing condition. Jim talked about the opportunity to bury the wiring but how cost prohibitive it would be to the town to accomplish that task.

Beverly made a motion to approve the NSTAR petition with the conditions the Planning Board requested. They included the following:

1. All the new poles would be in the wooded section of Moshup Trail and not out in the scenic open area. Although the new poles will be visible when driving down Moshup Trail they will blend into the trees and are no closer together than poles on any other road in Town;
2. All the new poles would be the same height as the existing poles and when the existing poles had to be replaced they would be replaced with poles of the same height;
3. There will be an avoidance of removing tree branches that grow out and over the road. Most of the current tree cover is on trees that have been trimmed to remove branches that are above the wires and NSTAR will continue this practice. Some new trimming may need to be done around the poles at Nomans Watch (depending on pole placement) but NSTAR will maintain as much cover there as possible;
4. The pole at 1 Moshups Trail will be placed 12 feet further up the road from its present staked location at the request of Beverly Evans, the property owner;
5. A request for notice from NSTAR to let the Town know if any other poles needed to be added or replaced with taller poles;

6. That NSTAR make the light fixtures on all the street lamps in Town compliant with the Town's Lighting Bylaw by getting rid of the Cobra Head fixtures where the lens drops down and replace them with "full cutoff," or "fully focused" designs that reduce glare and improve visibility. The street fixtures should also have a shield to cut back the visibility of the bulb/glare from a distance. Jim seconded.
The Board voted 2 – 0 in favor. The motion passed.

-Next on the agenda was a review of the bid proposals for 2nd floor wiring work at the Aquinnah Cultural Center. 3 bids had been submitted. There was discussion about where the receptacles would go in the different rooms and how it would be wired through the panel board in the basement. There was discussion about the bids from electrician Gary Haley and Mark O'Donnell from MV Electricians being \$30 apart. Jim said Gary has more experience doing prior work for the Homestead.
Beverly made a motion to accept Haley's bid of \$4,200.00 for the Homestead 2nd floor wiring project. Jim seconded.

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

-Next on the agenda was future departmental resignations and retirements that would be taking effect in the next month or two and what action the Board would like to take in terms of seeking qualified replacements. There was consensus that all openings will be advertised in the newspapers. This led to a discussion about what policies the Board has when it comes to making appointments for town committees and the hiring of personnel to run Town Hall. Beverly asked what the process was for hiring people. Jim talked about how one gets appointed to the Finance Committee through the Town Moderator. Beverly asked that there be a written process for the Board to follow. There was discussion about a recent resignation that when accepted by the Board will be advertised as being available.
Jim asked that at the next meeting there will be clearly written policy on Town hiring/appointments.
Adam said he'd write up a procedural document for the Selectmen to approve.

-Next on the agenda was a review of the proposed new Shellfish Regulations. Adam reported that the Chairman of the Shellfish committee asked for a continuance until September 20th when they can have a quorum. The continuance was granted.

-The Board took up the request from Tri-Town for additional funding for an EMT to be trained to be a paramedic. The cost shared between the 3 towns is \$4,000 each. There was talk about how long the training will take. Randhi said there seems to be a trend that eventually all personnel will have to have 3rd level certification in order to work as an EMT.

-Beverly made a motion for the request to be put on the September 27th new warrant. Jim seconded.

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

-Randhi asked that there be an article for back pay for two officers guaranteed in the policemen's contract. There was discussion about the use of free cash at Town Meeting that didn't include the salary shortfall and the inclusion of the police detail account in the wage line item.

-There was discussion about the two specials that will occur on September 27th.

Beverly made a motion to include the warrant article for the policemen's unused time in FY '11. Jim seconded.

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

Mike pointed out that the 2nd special has to be posted for a later time than the 1st because that meeting is continued to 7:00 pm.

-Beverly brought up Spencer's resignation as the Town's EMD. She also asked about the status of the Tribe/Town public safety agreement. Randhi stated that he had talked with the Council Chairwoman and that there is still language that needs legal review from their attorneys.

-The Board thanked Randhi for his emergency management direction during tropical storm Irene and took up the EMD resignation. Beverly made a motion to accept Spencer Booker's resignation as EMD. Jim seconded.

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

-Adam asked that the Board take up the issue of having an interim EMD until a replacement can be appointed by the Board since Hurricane season doesn't end until November 1st. Beverly stated that Gary Coates would be interested in taking on the position and would speak to him about applying for the stipend job. Beverly asked if Randhi would continue to serve as the acting EMD. Randhi said he would.

By consensus the Board agreed to keep Randhi as the acting EMD until a replacement is found.

Beverly made a motion to adjourn. Jim seconded.

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

-The meeting ended at 6:27 pm