

## TISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

51 Spring Street, Box 1239, Vineyard Haven, MA 02568

Tuesday, October 18, 2016

**Town Hall Annex, High Point Lane, 5:30PM**

**Members present:** Selectmen: Melinda Loberg, Chair; Tristan Israel, Clerk; Larry Gomez

**Staff Present:** Jay Grande, Town Administrator, Barbara Lampson, Executive Assistant; John Crocker, Interim Harbormaster; Kenneth Barwick, Building and Zoning Inspector; Town Treasurer, Jon Snyder; Fire Chief John Schilling; Shellfish Constable Danielle Ewart

**Others present:** Elaine Barse, Sarah York, Scott Mullin (Vineyard Haven Business Association) Dana Hodgson, William Street Historic District Commission member; Ben Robinson, Planning Board member; James Tilton, Shellfish Advisory Board member; and other members of the public. **Late arrival:** Emma Green-Beach of the Martha's Vineyard Shellfish Group.

*Meeting called to order by Melinda Loberg at 5:30PM.*

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

**Halloween / Harvest Festival Update:** Elaine Barse of the Vineyard Haven Business Association, explains the events of the Halloween weekend as follows:

- A Halloween parade on Monday starting at 4pm at the Mansion House and continuing down Main St.
- On Sunday a pumpkin carving contest with prizes.
- Scavenger hunt in Town on Sunday finding purple pumpkins in stores on Main Street
- Trick or treating after the Halloween parade on Monday.

**Motion:** *to approve the events of the Halloween /Harvest Festival as outlined by the Vineyard Haven Business Association. Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, motion passes unanimously 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.*

**Warrant for the State Election on November 8:** Warrant is produced for the upcoming election.

**Motion:** *to approve and sign the Warrant for the upcoming State Election on November 8. Larry Gomez moves, Tristan Israel seconds, motion passes unanimously 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions. (Warrant is signed)*

**All-Island School Committee Meeting update:** Jay Grande explains the recent vote of the Committee to change the school choice funding so that the community from which a student comes will be providing the funding for that student, rather than the host community, as previously. Any students in the system currently will be under the old system. Tristan Israel also adds that he hopes very much that the new elementary school includes provision for our special needs students, and that it would be short-sighted of the Town to not include that in any upcoming plans for the Tisbury School.

**Revised Budget Schedule:** Jon Snyder introduces the revised Budget Schedule.

**Motion:** *To approve the revised budget schedule. Larry Gomez moves, Tristan Israel seconds, motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.*

**Advisory Committee Policy:** Jay Grande states that all minutes and agendas for Advisory Committees should be held by the Selectmen's office. Tristan Israel asks that there be proper training in regards to minutes taken, or a floating employee be appointed to do so.

**Motion:** *To accept the policy for Advisory Committees. Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.*

**Update on Santander Bank:** Jay Grande state that the project was referred to the Martha's Vineyard Commission as requested.

**Capital Budget:** Jon Snyder gives an overview. He explains that he has received requests from almost all departments, and that Fin Comm will go over them with him starting on 10/19. They will review and get back to the Selectmen with recommendations in late November or early December. Tristan Israel asks if the Town has a long-term capital plan. Jay Grande states that it could be improved and used as a budgetary tool, and that the Town needs a spending plan covering 5 years. He further states that he has asked the Town Treasurer to look at what we can afford and be reasonable to do without compromising Town services. He adds that the presentation in late November / early December will give a good overview of all the requests.

Further discussion: Larry Gomez clarifies that 5 years means 5 rolling years, and will be added to year by year. Tristan Israel asks if we are including the School in this? Jon Snyder answers that he has not yet heard from the school.

**CPC update:** Jay Grande states that they made some determinations regarding eligibility of the preliminary applications and that they are included in the list in the Selectmen's Correspondence packet.

**Seaport Grant Application:** Jay Grande explains that the Harbormaster is asking for Selectmen to support his filing of the grant application to the Seaport Economic Council for grant funding for the Lake Street boat ramp, bulkhead, and dock repairs, and that the Town will be looking for funding in excess of \$700,000., and that there are some local funds available for the project as well. Explains further that the deadline for the grant application is the end of October. Grande asks for approval of the grant application being filed, and a letter of support from the Selectmen to accompany the grant. Grande explains that the Town had hoped the State would pick up this project and fund it and they did not, so Town is hoping that the grant will pick up part of the cost of the needed repairs. The grant requires a 20 % match and Melinda Loberg and Jay Grande explain that the Town has that.

**Motion:** To approve the filing of the Seaport Grant application, and the sending of a letter of support to go along with it. Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, **motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.**

**Joint meeting with Waterworks:** Jay Grande proposes date of November 2 at Waterworks at 4 pm; he explains that the idea is to meet with the Waterworks Commissioners as the Selectmen met with the Conservation Commission.

**Verizon Agreement:** Jay Grande notifies the Selectmen that there is an antenna lease agreement coming up for renewal with Waterworks, on the Water Tower at High Point Lane, with revenue from the lease going into the Waterworks revolving account.

#### **PRESENTATION:**

Emma Green-Beach of MV Shellfish Group is not present so presentation is postponed. Melinda Loberg gives a brief background on the project which includes installation of 6 wells for water testing, and investigating whether cutting down phragmites removes nitrogen from the soil. Ray Tattersall expresses a concern that any testing wells be well off the playing fields.

**Motion:** to approve the project which includes installation of 6 testing wells under the direction of Ray Tattersall, DPW director, and Jane Varkonda, Conservation Agent. Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, **motion passes unanimously 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.**

#### **DEPARTMENTAL AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Proposed Changes to the Building Permit Application:** Building and Zoning Inspector Kenneth Barwick introduces changes to the building permit application to refer projects as needed to other boards and departments. He asks the Selectmen for approval to attach these new documents to new documents in future for sign-offs. Jay Grande asks if other Towns have similar lists, and Mr. Barwick confirms, stating that they may not however be identical. Jay Grande brings up whether the MVC should be part of the sign-offs, and states a concern that the William Street Historic District Commission does not have staff so there won't be anyone available to sign off. Dana Hodgson of the Commission is present and comments that anything within their jurisdiction geographically has to come before them anyway, and that there is one meeting per month.

Melinda Loberg states that the Town is hoping that some of this can eventually be handled through the Town website. Other concerns stated are for site review, wastewater approvals during the building process, and fire inspections. Jay Grande states the need for staffing to receive the documents. Melinda Loberg recommends the formation of a checklist to help people through the process.

**Motion:** to approve the additional referral checklist addendum to the Building Permit application, pending a final edit and review by the Selectmen. Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, **motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.**

**Tax Classification Hearing:** Town Treasurer Jon Snyder explains that the Town has been certified for the new tax classification for the FY2018, and that an ad has been placed in the newspaper for a certification hearing on November 1.

**Special Purpose Stabilization Fund:** Jon Snyder explains that in 2014 the Town voted to put money into fire, ambulance, and DPW stabilization funds each year, but the Selectmen need to vote the amounts for each year to be moved into the accounts, and that the purpose of the accounts is to spread the larger purchases for these departments over a number of years, such as a new fire truck.

**Motion:** to approve transferring \$100,000.00 into the fire stabilization fund, \$35,000.00 into the ambulance stabilization fund, and \$50,000.00 into the DPW fund, for a total of \$185,000. Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, **motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.**

Mooring fee abatements: Jon Snyder explains that the abatements are in reference to people who give up their moorings. Melinda Loberg clarifies that these are mooring rental fees where the lessees have been billed, but gave up their moorings and so the Town will not be collecting the balance of the mooring fee.

**Motion:** to approve the Mooring Fee Abatements on sheet 1 for \$1,329.75. Larry Gomez moves, Tristan Israel seconds: motion passes unanimously 3yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

**Motion:** to approve the Mooring Fee Abatements on sheet 2 for \$ 635.75. Larry Gomez moves, Tristan Israel seconds, motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

**PRESENTATION:** Emma Green-Beach of MV Shellfish: (she passes out handouts) She explains that she is involved in a study to see if cutting Phragmite will reduce nitrogen from the ponds. The project, as stated previously in these minutes, is part of a grant-funded study that combines water-testing with 6 wells installed at War Veterans Memorial Park, and that the testing will be done over the next year. Selectmen suggest that Board of Health be notified and involved in the project since they are also studying how to reduce nitrogen getting to the ponds.

**MVC APPOINTEE:** Ben Robinson of the Planning Board is proposed as the Town of Tisbury appointee to the Martha's Vineyard Commission.

**Motion:** to appoint Ben Robinson as Martha's Vineyard Commission member from the Town of Tisbury until December 31, 2016. Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

**Proposed Ban on Shellfish Dragging in Lake Tashmoo:** Melinda Loberg asks for an update on the current shellfish closures. Danielle Ewart, Shellfish Constable, gives an overview of the bacteria causing the closures, which is toxic to humans, and there is also a neurovirus that is effecting shellfish. She states that the closure is still in effect for everything except scallops outside the harbor.

James Tilton, member of the Shellfish Advisory Committee, explains that the proposed ban is for protecting the eelgrass in Lake Tashmoo, and that people would still be able to snorkel and dip-net, just not drag. Lynn Fraker comments that she dragged last year, and that her observations were that the amount of destruction of the pond bottom was not worth the amount of scallops she got.

**Motion:** to ban shellfish dragging in Lake Tashmoo. Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

#### **PROSPECTIVE MEETING AGENDAS:**

Jay Grande states that he has been working with Exec. Asst. Barbara Lampson to move the calendar forward on the prospective agenda. Upcoming is a Selectmen's meeting on November 1, and joint meeting with Waterworks on November 2, and Town Cabinet on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October.

#### **ADMINISTRATION:**

**Cemetery Deed:** to approve signing of the deed of Cemetery Lots as follows:

**Motion:** to sign the Cemetery Deed for Book 4, Page 24, Lots 29A and 29B on Ash Avenue. Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

**Motion:** to approve the Rate Increase Slip for Meghan Monteson. Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

**Motion:** to approve and sign the minutes of 9/20/2016. Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

**Motion:** to approve the Payroll Warrants and Warrants Payable as follows:

#100816 for \$315,750.53  
#100116 for \$123,946.64  
#101516 for \$123,538.53  
10/11/2016 for \$166,197.69  
10/06/2016 for \$458,200.96

Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

**Meeting adjourned at 7:03PM.**

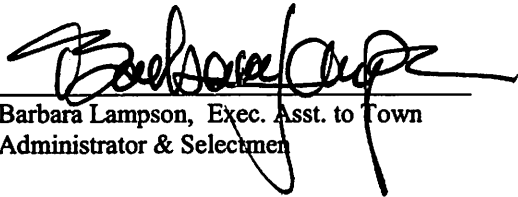
**Motion:** to approve the rate change slip for James Cleary. Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

**Motion:** to approve the rate change slip for Porter Fraser. Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, motion passes unanimously 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

**Motion:** to accept and sign meeting minutes from September 20, 2016. Larry Gomez moves, Tristan Isral seconds, motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

**Motion:** to approve the Warrant Payable for \$ 409,354.85. Tristan Israel moves, Larry Gomez seconds, motion passes unanimously: 3 yes, 0 no, 0 abstentions.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00PM



Barbara Lampson, Exec. Asst. to Town  
Administrator & Selectmen



Melinda Loberg, Chair