

Tisbury School Committee
8:30AM, Tuesday, June 26, 2018
Tisbury School Conference Room

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TSC Members Present: Chair Amy Houghton*, Colleen McAndrews, Janet Packer,

Staff: John Custer – Principal, Sean Mulvey – Assoc. Principal;
Richie Smith* – Asst. Superintendent
Amy Tierney – Business Administrator, Rita Jeffers – K Teacher,
Others: Melinda Loberg – Selectman, Ben Robinson – Planning Board,
Wiet Bacheller – TSBC, Marni Lipke – Recorder

* Late Arrivals or early departures.

The Tisbury School Committee (TSC) meeting was called to order at 8:30AM. Chair Amy Houghton noted that she had a conflicting appointment at 9:00AM.

I. Approval of Minutes of June 8, 2018 – Tabled

II. Facility Needs

A. Board of Selectmen Mission Statement, Building Committee Composition

B. Priority Projects

- Ms. Houghton reported the public comments/requests she received about the proposed school capital committee:
 - a group of 10-12 (rather than 5) for a broader perspective;
 - the inclusion of the Superintendent;
 - other Town uses for the current school building as part of the Committee scope;
 - turning the whole project over to the 14 people that signed the letter in the press;
 - strong insistence that any other current plan be put on the table;
 - reconstitute the current Tisbury School Building Committee (TSBC) with a different charge.
- Principal John Custer met with Town Administrator Jay Grande and Town Treasurer Jon Snyder and Town Facilities Director Kirk Metell.
 - There was strong feeling that both Prin. Custer and Mr. Metell should be on the Committee either as voting or ex-officio members.
 - Mr. Grande and Mr. Snyder asked the Town strongly consider submitting another Statement of Interest (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MVBA). MSBA Representative Ms. Diane Sullivan explained that the Tisbury School was not eligible for the accelerated program due to the building's significant and varied needs, i.e. any building qualifying for more than two "Accelerated" projects must apply a comprehensive "Core" SOI.
 - There was agreement that the scope of the committee be broader than a narrow renovation/addition school project and include other uses for the existing building including low income housing, as well as new construction on a different site such as the Manter land, although not only the School but the Town also needed open land.
 - The Turowski Two (T2) Feasibility Study was being used to inform capital needs.
 - Any priority repair/upgrade list on the current facility should be part of the Committee discussion.

- TSC members noted a number of unresolved issues.
 - The Town had named several cost caps but had not been forthcoming on funding sources.
 - It was the responsibility of the TSC to oversee School finances.
 - Passions were still high on contentious issues and of the failed project:
 - ° TSC noting the Education Plan determined with substantial community input while Planning Board Chair Mr. Ben Robinson contended it was crafted for new school construction;
 - ° voter misconceptions on the MSBA/TSBC process such as on class size regulations
 - ° whether there was a lack of forthrightness by TSBC members and unexpected public opposition before the ballot vote;
 - ° whether the TSBC was “stacked” and the Town Hall design committee as similarly “stacked”.
- Ms. Colleen McAndrews was insistent and active in advocating the school as a Town project and therefore strongly recommended that the TSC and Selectmen publicly meet too resolve a number of outstanding issues before moving forward with the project.
 - As the Finance Committee (FinCom) and the Town Treasurer certified that the Town could afford the failed project, there was a question of who determined what the Town could afford.
 - What other potential funding sources was the Town exploring.
 - There should be agreement on a comprehensive plan for Town capital needs/cost planning, including whether this building had to be a school or could be renovated to other Town capital needs (Police Station, Town Hall, etc.)
 - There was a perception that the Town should be able to vote at each step in the process, and whether that was compatible with MSBA procedure.
- Selectman Melinda Loberg responded that:
 - she voiced her reservations at TSBC meetings, representing how half the Town felt;
 - the voters decided what the Town could afford; and
 - other sources of income might include the recently expanded US Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant/loans; and
 - in order to promote healthy discussion, joint TSC/Selectmen meetings should be dedicated to the issue, rather than a smaller part of regular meetings.
- Mr. Robinson advocated for the MSBA process and an autopsy on the vote:
 - the failure of Town officials, the Tisbury School and faculty and the TSC;
 - the school budget should be part of the scope including 10% for capital needs;
 - other current building uses as more expensive and involved than school use.
- *ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. MCANDREWS AND SECONDED BY MS. PACKER THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AGREED TO MEET WITH THE TISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN WITHIN TWO WEEKS; 3 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.*
- The Committee Mission Statement was on the agenda of tonight’s Board of Selectmen meeting so Ms. Loberg agreed that it be tabled.
- * Ms. Houghton expressed her apologies at having to leave the meeting at 9:07PM.

III. Financial Report

A. Donation Receipt Request

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PACKER AND SECONDED BY MS. MCANDREWS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE UNANIMOUSLY AND VERY GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED \$250 FROM THE MARTHA'S VINEYARD SAVING BANK; 2 AYES, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSTENTIONS.**

Adjournment

- **ON A MOTION DULY MADE BY MS. PACKER AND SECONDED BY MS. MCANDREWS THE TISBURY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING UNANIMOUSLY ADJOURNED AT 9:08AM.**

Appendix A: Meetings/Events:

- **BOS/TSC Meeting – TBD or 5:00pm, Tuesday, July 7, 2018 at Town Hall KCT**
- **MVRHSC - 5:00pm, Monday, July 9, 2018 at the MVRHS LCR**
- **AISC - 4:30PM, Thursday, July 19, 2018 at the MVRHS LCR**
- **MVRHSC - 5:00pm, Monday, August 6, 2018 at the MVRHS LCR**
- **TSC Meeting - 8:30pm, Tuesday, TBD at the Tisbury School**

Appendix B: Actions

- Ms. Houghton – contact Selectmen Chair Tristan Israel re: joint meeting (special or regular).
- Ms. Loberg – table Selectmen discussion of Mission Statement to joint meeting.

Appendix C: Documents on File:

- Agenda 6/26/18

Minutes respectfully submitted by Office On Call/ Marni Lipke.

Minutes approved by the TSC 9/11/18