

Meeting of the
Aquinnah Select Board
February 9, 2021

Minutes

This meeting was held via Zoom videoconference

Attending: Jim Newman (Chairman), Julie Vanderhoop, Chief Belain, William Lake, Chief Retmier (Tri-Town Ambulance), Paul Manning, Jim Pickman, Michael Hebert (Aquinnah Housing Committee), Howard Goldstein, Bill Lake, Jeffrey Madison (Town Administrator) Gary Haley (Absent [stuck in snow!])

Selectman Newman called the meeting to order at 5:06 p.m.

Minutes Approved
(January 19, 2021)

Request to Use Beach at West Basin (requested applicant to attend meeting)

Jim Newman read from an email received from Kimberly Scott of G.G. Events in which she requested use of “Lobsterville Beach” on the evening of June 17 for 50-100 guests. Event will be catered using Bill’s Clambake. Board will consider granting permission. Many questions regarding number of cars by caterer, exact location (whether it is Lobsterville or West Basin), liability insurance, site fee? Request was made that Town Administrator arrange for Kimberly Scott to attend the next meeting.

Housing R.F.P. (Allowed Housing Committee to publish R.F.P.)

Mike Hebert represented the Aquinnah Housing Authority. Several questions: Julie asked how many units were being proposed? Mike answered that there would be 2 units with at total of 8 bedrooms. Jim asked if there could be local preference for town employees. Mike answered that he would have to check with Town Counsel, but he didn’t think it was possible. Also Jim asked whether there needed further town meeting action is required? Mike agreed to ask town counsel. Julie made a motion that the Select Board endorse the project and allow the R.F.P. to be published. Jim seconded. The motion was carried by a vote of 2-0.

Climate and Energy Committee Letter (No objection to the Committee sending a letter)

Jim indicated that he did not think it wise for the Select Board to get into the discussion of what substance would be used as a base for the playing fields at the High School. The Climate and Energy Committee was seeking the Board’s input on their proposed letter to the M.V.C. in support of a natural grass field.

Building Project Update (No action taken)

T.A. reported that the Projects Committee (“PC”) had met and reviewed four (4) submissions received in response to the advertisements. Three of the firms will be interviewed for further consideration.

Police Contracts Update
(Set up meeting with Select Board)

T.A. reported that he had met with Jim Newman, reviewed existing, expired contract and made some suggestions to modify contract. Newman requested that the proposed modifications be presented to the rest of the Select Board for their approval before being turned over to Jack Collins for presentation to the officers. T.A. to arrange for a meeting of the Board to discuss further.

Tri-Town Ambulance Proposal
(Endorsed use of monies generally reserved for capital investment)

Ben Retmier, Chief of Tri-Town Ambulance Service, made a request that the Board endorse a change to the Tri-Town Agreement that would allow for the use of monies generally used for reserve for purchase of new ambulance(s) to be used for the FY '22 general budget. The request is made to reduce assessments to the Towns. Ben indicated that the use of the ambulance system was down this year as a result of decreased usage probably due to the Covid conditions. Howard Goldstein pointed out that he has some experience with emergency services and the same conditions have resulted at his institutions. Usage down about 30%. Jim pointed out that he supported the request. He further pointed out that Allen Rugg is meeting with Tri-town in an attempt to possibly change the funding structure of the service to more accurately reflect Aquinnah's usage and the effect of maintaining a 1/3-1/3-1/3 cost share between the member towns.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:44 p.m.