

Meeting of the
Aquinnah Select Board
April 9, 2021

Minutes

This meeting was held via Zoom videoconference

Attending: Jim Newman (Chairman), Gary Haley, Jeffrey Madison (Town Administrator) absent:
Julianne Vanderhoop

Selectman Newman called the meeting to order.

Selectman Newman made a motion to continue the meeting until 1:00 p.m. on April 12, 2021 because Juli is stuck off-Island. Gary seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with no further discussion.

April 12, 2021

Attending: Jim Newman, Gary Haley, Juli Vanderhoop, Wendy Swolinzky, Bill Lake, Randhi Belain, Howard Goldstein, Buddy Vanderhoop, Barbara Bassett

Selectman Newman called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

Minutes Deferred
(March 2, 2021 minutes deferred)

Police Cruiser Lease
(Approved article in ATM to lease Police Cruiser)

Review of Annual Town Meeting Warrant
(Approved the proposed warrant articles)

Discussion of the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting centered around a proposed article to construct four affordable rental units on land behind the Town Hall. Barbara Bassett questioned the appropriateness of the article given that the town had previously tabled indefinitely a prior article seeking the same permission. Ultimately she was satisfied by placing what had been Article 26 to number 24 which would place the question of whether the Town would vote to allow the housing before the appropriation to construct it. She expressed concern that the Brett-Smith (owners of property on Jeffers Way) concerns were being overlooked or ignored. Juli made a motion to approve the warrant as renumbered, Gary Seconded the motion. There was no further discussion and the Board voted to approve the motion.

Police Cruiser
(Approved lease for new cruiser)

Randhi explained the need for a new police cruiser to replace one of the existing police cruisers due to high mileage. Jeffrey provided notice of First Capital Equipment Leasing Corporation who would allow the Town to take possession of a new vehicle before the end of the fiscal year. The Select Board, with approval of Chief Belain, authorized the Town Administrator to sign the lease agreement with First Capital.

Menemsha Lot Leases

(Set date for discussion with leasess)

Board voted to meet by Zoom video conference with the Leasess of lots at the channel on Tuesday April 20 at 5:30 p.m.

Land Sale

(Board supported article as proposed in ATM warrant)

Town Administrator explained the warrant article seeking permission to sell Map 5, Lot 59. Wendy Swolinzky indicated that the Town should put a solar array on the property rather than sell it. Barbara Bassett agreed. It was pointed out that even a solar array would require a right of way or easement to the property. They both disagreed. Barbara commented that whoever was able to purchase the land would be an “instant millionaire.”

Building Project Update

(No action taken)

T.A. reported that the Projects Committee has moved the issue of an Owner’s Project Manager (“OPM”) by placing ad in the State Register and advertising in the Vineyard Gazette.

Plumbing in Town Offices

(Board directed Jay and Jeff to find a plumber to fix broken drain)

Abandoned Batteries on Town Road

(Julie reported batteries thrown away on Town Roadside)

Meeting was adjourned.