

Aquinnah Select Board Meeting
Minutes
March 21, 2023

Attending: Gary Haley, Tom Murphy, Julianne Vanderhoop (Chair), Jeffrey Madison (Town Administrator, Bill Lake, Paul Manning, Luke Lefeber, Jim Pickman, Karen Salvatore, Morgan Hodgson, Alexandra Taylor, Jay Mc Loed, Noli Taylor, Eileen Sullivan, Jim Wallen, Randhi Belain

Call to Order at 5:00 p.m. by Julie Vanderhoop, Chairman

Minutes

(Adopted Minutes of March 7, 2023 meeting w/ spelling correction)

Julie pointed out a spelling error in the last paragraph on first page. Tom Murphy made a motion that was seconded by Gary Haley to accept the minutes as corrected. Vote was unanimous

Aquinnah Cert Team

(Agreed to consider budget requests for FY 2024)

Gabbi Camileri made a request that the Town's CERT team be funded in the annual town budget. She pointed out that the team is being hailed as a model by other Vineyard CERT teams. Budget would include first aid kits, mailings, classes, vests and shelter supplies. A decision on radios was part of the discussion. It was pointed out that the current system used by the team is a cell phone application called Zello (?) but that it is dependent on operating cell service which is often unavailable in emergency situations. After remarks by Paul Manning, and with the agreement of Gabbi, it was agreed that this item needs more research before being funded. Cost request is for Six Thousand (\$6,000.00) Dollars. Board agreed to include this amount in the budget. Tom Murphy thanked Gabbi for her work on this. He also thanked the entire CERT team for their dedication.

Further discussed was reinstitution of the Town's summer sailing and swimming programs. A handout developed from Charles Shipway IV outlining the costs of a 7 week sailing program indicated a budget of Twelve Thousand Four Hundred Eighty (\$12,480.00). No budget or proposal for a swimming program was presented. Insurance costs would be added to this amount. The Board agreed to consider the request. Tom thanked Gabbi for bringing these items before the Board.

Tribe Master Cliff Lease

(Agreed to extend lease until November 2023)

Tom reported that his meetings with the Todd Araujo, Tribe's Chief of Staff, had continued resulting in a request from the Tribe to extend the existing lease term until November 1, 2023 at same rate as other lessee. Conversations on further extension will continue. Board voted unanimously to sign an extension.

Aquinnah Climate and Energy Report
(Agreed to include “opt-in” article at ATM)

Bill Lake presented a report on next steps in reductions of emissions from new construction. In his report Bill, on behalf of the ACEC, proposed including a warrant article adopting model rules as developed by the State. These rules would update the previously adopted stretch code that would take effect after July 1, 2024. Tom congratulated Bill on the work of the Committee and their accomplishments and thanked him for their efforts. Board voted to include requested articles in ATM warrant.

Budget Discussion
(Adopted Revised Wage Scale and Set COLA at 5%)

Emily Day presented findings of her research on decisions of other Island towns decision on COLA’s for municipal employees. Findings ranged from 3% to 7.5%. Those communities doing 3% were also providing a one time cash payment to employees. Alexandra Taylor presented on behalf of the Personnel Committee who recommended a revised Wage Scale for Aquinnah employees. The scale was actually recommended by The Collins Center who had surveyed other Island towns. The net effect, if adopted, results in a \$65,000.00 increase. Tom Murphy thanked both Emily and Alexandra for their work and made a motion to accept the recommendation of both Emily and Alexandra and adopt the Revised Wage Scale and Five (5%) COLA. Gary seconded the motion and the vote was 3 in favor and 0 opposed.

Special Town Meeting
(Approved April 26 STM)

Tom summarized Article 4 of the proposed warrant saying that many towns exempt commercial properties from town zoning regulations. As Aquinnah has no commercial district he felt that the article exempting municipal uses on town-owned properties was necessary. Tom made a motion to approve; the warrant as presented, Gary seconded the motion the vote was 3 – 0 in favor.

Select Board Appointee to Local Advisory Board of Land Bank
(Deferred until appointments for next fiscal year)

Tom Murphy indicated he had met with town counsel and reviewed laws pertaining to appointment of members to Town Advisory Board. There is, under the legislation as approved, a requirement for 7 members on the TAB. He pointed out that there needs to a reconsideration of members of the TAB. Mike Hebert expressed his opinion there should be a member of the Aquinnah Housing Committee on the TAB, indicating further that the AHC had approved him as their member should the Town consider his request.

Town Credit Card
(No action taken)

Jamie Vanderhoop presented an issue that the Town has been able to secure a credit card for Town use. The reason being that federal regulations require a personal social security number associated with the municipal card. Town Administrator indicated he had been using his own credit card for town expenses and waiting for town reimbursement. He informed the Board that he is no longer willing to do that. The Board took no action but Tom thanked Jamie for her efforts.

Board of Appeals Vacancy

(Accepted resignation of Jim Vercruysse, with regret)

Tom Murphy suggested that the Town should recognize Jim for his years of work representing the Town both as a member of the Board of Appeals and as Aquinnah's representative on the Martha's Vineyard Commission. He suggested a posting on the town website a notice of vacancy. He personally thanked Jim for his service.

Other Business

(Requested that minutes be sent out sooner)

Jay Macloed requested that minutes be sent out in a more timely manner. Select Board agreed to make an effort to do better with posting.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.