

Joint Meeting of Chilmark and West Tisbury Select Board 4:30 PM Meeting Minutes

Present remotely: Chilmark Select Board: Chairperson Bill Rossi, James Malkin and Marie Larsen.

West Tisbury Select Board: Chairperson Skipper Manter, Cynthia Mitchell and Jessica Miller. Others:

Jen Rand, Tim Carroll, Janice Haynes, Diana DeBlase, Bethany Hammond, Kimberly Manter, Matthew Gebo, Mia Vittimberga, News reporter Thomas Humphrey.

At 4:30 PM West Tisbury Select Board Chairperson Skipper Manter called meeting to order on the Zoom platform. Chilmark Select Board Chairperson Rossi called the Chilmark meeting to order.

West Tisbury Select Board minutes were reviewed and approved for their 5/31/23 and 6/07/23 meetings.

Howes House funding formula talks:

West Tisbury Chairperson Manter said our latest proposal recommendation for funding formula is 60/30/10 60% to West Tisbury, 30% to Chilmark and 10% to Aquinnah.

Chilmark Select Board Chairperson Rossi asked what the estimated cost is for the project.

Mr. Manter said 10 million dollars.

Jeremie Rogers joined the meeting

Ms. Larsen said the Howes House is basically a community center for West Tisbury. Up Island Council on Aging could be housed anywhere.

Ms. Miller recommended a building use breakdown report.

Jim Malkin said we will need a bit more detail for Chilmark Voters of what use and future uses Chilmark residents have with the Howes House.

Bethany Hammond of UICOA said she can calculate numbers and data for you and have in a few weeks.

Mr. Manter said this building (Howes House) in our Historic District, and plan needs to go to them again we meet next Wednesday with next draft for them to review once this review is approved by Historical Commission we will share with other 2 towns.

Chairperson Rossi said our financial policy is to stay below 10% borrowing debt to keep our AAA bonding. Chairperson Rossi said this proposed formula is a big bite. General community message is we have been borrowing and spending a lot of money so people are weary and have some anxiety. We have a major project coming up in our marina in the coming years. Want to support the service and work with the up island towns with this. But formula made me nervous

Jen Rand the West Tisbury Town Administrator said Chilmark doesn't have a volunteer on board of Howes House Committee, we need someone.

Ms. Larsen said she agrees with Chairperson Rossi; will be a tough sell to Chilmark voters. With harbor, housing and school expenses we need some data to convince people we need this. Can't decide the formula now.

Jim Malkin said his own view is as follows: how much use we currently get and what future could be, but intellectually Formula seems appropriate to me but timing may be a point that makes this difficult to Chilmark.

Mr. Manter said timing is now, as building really needs it.

Chairperson Rossi said we need a volunteer for the Howes House committee. Marie Larsen said she would do it.

At 5:00 PM Chilmark Select board left the joint meeting to allow West Tisbury to continue with their town's Select Board agenda.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

Approved 07/11/2023