

## Chilmark Select Board November 15, 2022 5:00 PM Meeting Minutes

**Present Remotely:** Select Board members: Chairperson Bill Rossi, James Malkin and Warren Doty. Others: Tim Carroll, Jonathan Klaren, Diana DeBlase, Pam Bunker, Margaret Maida, Laura Silber, Janet Weidner, Tara Marden, Alison Kisselgof, Robert Hannemann, Richard Osnoss, John Abrams, Susan Murphy, Jim Feinner, Kathryn, Linda Levy, Ann Wallace, Ryan Rossi, D. Barnes, Deb Hancock, Doug Ruskin, Jeremy Bradshaw, Julie Flanders, Kara Shemeth, Peter Cook, Reporters Thomas Humphrey VG, Rich Saltzberg MVT, MVTV videographer

At 5:00 Chairperson Rossi called the meeting to order on the Zoom platform.

Minutes: there were no draft minutes to review, postponed till next meeting.

*Diana DeBlase left the meeting*

### Menemsha Parking & Traffic 2022 review - Police Chief & Harbor Master:

Chief Klaren reported that he and Harbormaster Rossi got together after the last Select Board meeting and clarified their goals for their departments. Discussed what went well for summer of 2022 and what needs improvement. Police goal for 2022 was to keep a police presence in Menemsha. It was pretty well accomplished. Other events happened that called the duty officer off sight of Menemsha. There was discussion of rebranding the traffic officer to community service officer. Chief Klaren said job description would remain the same just change the title. Chief Klaren said Harbormaster Rossi would like to see the police schedule so he is aware of the staffing so adjustments can be made in the Harbor Department staffing when needed.

Harbormaster agreed the communication was good. Harbor issue is staffing. This season there where 8 staff and majority of them where young without much experience. Harbormaster Rossi said delineating staff to assign waterside and roadside would be better than dual responsibilities for each staff member. Harbormaster Rossi said another item to take into consideration is recruitment. Would like to recruit older more experienced staff with experience in municipalities for the traffic control in Menemsha. Harbormaster Rossi said he believes they will be able to make improvements for next season. Mr. Doty questioned rebranding for a position that was already hard to fill. Chief Klaren said probably be 2 part time jobs 20 hours each (Community Service Officer) or 40 hours a week for the 12 weeks of summer.

Mr. Doty asked what the new Harbor proposal would do to the budget. Would additional staffing need additional funding? Harbormaster Rossi said he did not believe any additional funds would be needed from the FY23 budget for staffing. Harbormaster Rossi said the addition to the Assistant Wharfinger salary last season would cover hiring the Traffic Officers / Community Service Officers unless we were to hire a traffic supervisor. That position might be hired at rate of Assistant Harbormaster with the additional responsibility as supervisor. Chief Klaren said there might be some budget implications (To the Police Budget) as we want more police presents in Menemsha.

Police Chief - request repainting of the Basin Road Stop Line on North Road and adding S T O P:  
Chief Klaren said with the nice weather we have seen more visitors to Menemsha and they are not stopping at the stop at the end of North Rd, Basin Rd intersection.

Stop lines worn-out and the crest of rise makes hard to see.

- Recommend painting STOP at the intersection on the pavement.
- Also repaint the stop lines at the 3 intersections

Woods Hole Group (WHG)- Squibnocket Beach Restoration request:

- Does the Town support the idea of a nourishment project at this site?
- Should WHG request to be heard at a Select Board meeting?
- Who does this homeowner need to obtain permission from to permit a sand project on the Town parcels?
- Who does this homeowner need to obtain permission from to permit a sand project on the privately owned parcels that the Town leases? (Squibnocket Beach Association)

Tara Marden from WHG screen shared a beach visual location of Squibnocket Beach and surrounding properties. Ms. Marden said she was approached by a Chilmark resident who would fund the permitting and engineering. Ms. Marden said seems like Squibnocket Beach Association owns the land in the area. Ms. Marden said this request is for the engineering and permitting. Tim Carroll said the Vineyard Open Land Foundation owns most of the land and we have been in land court for about 4 years. This has been ongoing by legal counsel. Ms. Marden pulled the owners list from the Chilmark Assessors page. Mr. Malkin at end of day Mother Nature will win down there and beach will move north. Mr. Malkin said we were going to have a managed retreat stance on this area in Squibnocket. Ms. Marden said beach nourishment projects are often part of a managed retreat.

Mr. Malkin said when the Squibnocket project was presented to the town we voted not to spend resources on building up the dune in the future.

Kara Shemeth said she was asked by ConCom members and some Beach Committee members to see if we could get some sand added to Squibnocket. Ms. Shemeth said she was not aware that there were votes made when town acquired the Squibnocket project of not building up dunes.

Chairperson Rossi said as a taxpayer in Chilmark he feels if someone other than taxpayer wanted to fund a beach replenishment / nourishment that may or may not last, he is not against it.

Mr. Doty said we are about to start a dune restoration project in Menemsha that will be utilizing the dredging spoils from the harbor dredging this year. Ms. Shemeth confirmed Mr. Doty's statement. Ms. Shemeth said this (Squibnocket replenishment) would be a future project. They are seeking the permitting and engineering steps at this time. Mr. Doty said moving sand and dewatering can be very costly and time consuming (dewatering takes up to a year).

#### Squibnocket Beach Restoration request Continued..

Harbormaster Rossi said we are in the final stages of 5 areas to be permitted for dredging and in the future having an area to put spoils paid by private entity would be desirable.

Mr. Doty said we need to explore the ownership lease question more for the Squibnocket area. Chairperson Rossi said this is still in land court. Mr. Doty said about the request before us tonight doing the research, and permits he would say yes.

Mr. Rossi said Jay (caretaker at SFA) contacted him this week about revetment request from the Squibnocket Farm Association, the one that is anchoring the causeway.

Harbormaster Rossi reiterated that having a place to put clean sand from dredging would be a good thing especially if someone else is paying the bill.

#### Human Resource Board:

- Recommendation to allow Library to start a new hire Circulation Assistant at step 5

Administrator for the HRB, Alison Kisselgof said Library Director Ebba Hierta came to the board as she was not able to be competitive in hiring a Circulation Assistant. The pay for Chilmark Circulation Assistant is lower than other island towns and she is losing good candidates to other towns. Ms. Hierta had let the HRB know she had someone interested in the job but the rate was the issue. HRB agreed and recommended hire offer at step 5. Mr. Malkin gave some context and information about making this change would trigger needing to increase workers already in the position to be raised to higher step equal to new hire. We are seeing upward pressure on compensation.

Mr. Doty moved to approve allowing for new hire Circulation Assistant to be hired at step 5 as requested by Library and recommended by Human Resource Board. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

- COLA recommendation

Administrator Kisselgof described the process that brought the recommended COLA to the Select Board. HRB recommends a 4% COLA and a 3% special inflation adjustment stipend for the one year.

Mr. Malkin moved to approve the HRB recommendation. Mr. Doty seconded the motion.

**SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

#### Housing Committee - Memo from Jim Feiner requesting the town use 75% of the Short Term Rental income to fund the Molly Flender Affordable Housing Trust:

Ms. Kisselgof the Administrator for the Housing Committee said Jim Feiner could not stay (at zoom meeting) and emailed her the statement he wanted to convey to the Select Board. This recommendation is intended to reflect the same % the Housing Bank is proposing.

Laura Silber said she wanted to clarify the Housing Bank has nothing to do with the short-term rental revenue.

Chairperson Rossi said he respects the request for funds but not sure want to commit to that at this time. Ms. Hancock said she recalls that at town meeting prior to designation where funds would go we would see what was collected first.

#### Housing Committee - Memo Continued...

Mr. Malkin said he was not ready to get locked into a decision yet. Chairperson Rossi said the Select Board will take this under advisement and take no action at this time.

#### Housing Bank Review Committee recommendations to Select Boards:

Mr. Malkin reported on this item. The review committee met 6 times, received input from public and then invited Cyr and Fernandez to inform us on how the act was going. Mr. Malkin read the memo from the committee. Here is link to letter:

[https://www.chilmarkma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf8411/f/agendas/20221109\\_hbrc\\_letter.pdf](https://www.chilmarkma.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlf8411/f/agendas/20221109_hbrc_letter.pdf)

Mr. Malkin summarized the recommended amendments:

- To change the town advisory board from having two members appointed by each towns Housing Committee to one member from the Housing Committee, and one member from the Board of Assessors.
- Changing wording to reference year 2024 rather than year 2022.
- Any gifts, grants or assets to the Housing Bank be expended only for the purpose of that grant or gift. And would be subject to any restrictions or limitations from grant or donor.

Mr. Malkin also summarized what Cyr and Fernandez had to say. The transfer fee is going to be statewide, and it could be voted on by the legislature. The committee is seeking guidance from all Select boards on how to package this to legislators. Chairperson Rossi said he hopes there is uniformity from all six town on what we agree to submit to legislation. Mr. Doty asked to hear from the Housing Bank Group about what to submit to legislation.

Ms. Silber said they have identified 2 possible amendments that would allow the 27 page act to meet the requests of our legislative delegation. And described them. Ms. Silber said these were identified after the Housing Bank Review Committee completed their recommendation letters to the town Select Boards. Doug Ruskin and John Abrams both spoke to give some clarification of proposal. Mr. Doty said this Board (Chilmark Select Board) fully supports the Housing bank funded by a transfer fee.

Mr. Malkin moved that the Chilmark Select Board support sending warrant article and the associated act be submitted to the legislature. Chairperson Rossi said with the three amendments recommended by the Housing Bank Review Committee. Mr. Doty seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

#### Public Safety Building project:

- Update

Chairperson Rossi gave report that things are going well. The trusses are going up at the Ambulance Headquarters building. Chairperson Rossi said we should see a lot of developments within the next 30 days. Chairperson Rossi said Billy Dillion (the clerk of the works) has been sending daily reports that he will forward to fellow Select Board members to keep you posted.

- Reconciled the budget with the Town Accountant

Chairperson Rossi reported that there was a reconciliation between the town's OPM and CHA and the Town Accountant, all of the numbers are in order.

Treasurer:

- Request to continue the temporary employee

Chairperson Rossi said we are all going to be in favor of this request this employee has been a great benefit to the Treasurer.

D. Barns said she is requesting that the Select Board extend the employment of Assistant to town Treasurer for at least the fiscal year we are in. Treasurer Barns also added that a consideration of this position be in the FY2024 budget. Treasurer Barns said Sarah Smith has been a huge asset to the town. Mr. Malkin said he supports this request and also added that other municipalities outsource their payroll and we might want to consider that too rather than having an additional fulltime position. Mr. Doty said to clarify this is a 10 hour a week position that we could make permanent not a fulltime position.

Mr. Doty moved to approve the request to continue with a 10 hour a week employee to assist the town Treasurer. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

- Financial Advisor fee agreement

D. Barns said she has brought this to Select Board's attention so you are aware it will be part of the Treasurers budget for FY24. D. Barns said this doesn't need any action tonight. Mr. Carroll said since this is an appointed position now that the Select Board should vote the contract. Chairperson Rossi recommended to table voting till next Select Board meeting.

- Retiree billing issue in July

D. Barns said this is no longer an issue it was already cleared up but after submitting for agenda topic.

- Senior Health Benefits Fair TODAY 12 - 3:00 PM & morning meeting of CCMHG

D. Barns said she is very impressed as the majority of the participants where from Chilmark.

American Tower Corp - agreement to renew ROW use and Municipal Fiber System:

Mr. Carroll said as part of the Distributed Antennae System (DAS) there was a special permit board that Aquinnah and Chilmark Select Boards granted a right of way use which created a separate set of conditions. This gave use fiber and fees for the nodes. They are requesting renew of grant with additional conditions:

- Battery replacement process so all 31 of the DAS nodes will have new batteries within 12 months
- Fiber installation. Offering fiber from Middle Road to the Peaked Hill Public Safety Tower to connect the radios to the fiber network. And to also go from intersection of North Road and Basin Road to the Boat House.

Mr. Carroll said we made it clear we would want them to continue the fiber down through the conduits to the dock. That way the Harbor department could take advantage of the fiber.

- Annual review was also added as a requirement. Every September they would hear people's concerns. And get updated contacts for who these concerns would be shared with.
- Tree trimming plan

American Tower Corp – agreement Continued...

- Renew contract with American Tower to 2027

Mr. Carroll said this would allow for ATC to build in adding T Mobile to the system and adding more nodes to strengthen the connectivity.

Deb Hancock asked if there was a way to force the extension of the fiber to the harbor use. Mr. Carroll said he did not expect any problems with the negotiations. Mr. Carroll said he will add that the fiber goes to the end of the dock as part of the requirement in the contract. Mr. Carroll said he would send this to Town Counsel prior to finalizing with signatures. Mr. Carroll asked if Select Board would approve moving forward with the changes outlined tonight. With condition that if Town Counsel has changes they want us to include we would. Select Board tabled action till Town Counsel weighs in and negotiations illustrate the fiber going to end of dock.

Eversource - 11/28/22 using Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall for a public meeting to explain their need for approximately 20 new poles on Middle Road:

Mr. Carroll said he believes Eversource will send notice to abutters and hopes to have a zoom option.

Departmental Requests:

Fire Department request to utilize the surplus police department vehicle. Sargent Slavin of the Chilmark Police department said we had a \$2,500.00 trade-in that was being applied to purchase new police vehicle. Chief Bradshaw proposed pulling the \$2,500.00 from Fire Department warrant article for vehicle that was approved for purchase and return excess to the town. Mr. Carroll said that we would have to go back to town meeting to do that. An alternate suggestion would be to ask for reserve fund transfer or Selectmen's maintenance or the Fire department could come up with \$2,500 from their budget. Mr. Carroll suggested \$1,500 from Select Board Maintenance and \$1,000 from Fire department budget.

Mr. Doty moved to allocate \$1,500 from Select Board maintenance account and the remaining \$1,000. Come from within the fire department expense fund. For transferring vehicle from Chilmark Police department to Chilmark Fire Department. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion.

**SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Fire Chief Bradshaw said the department had a drill last night and found that Fire Truck 121 could not draft water. This vehicle also would need \$6,000.00 in new tires. It was decided to pull this vehicle out of service. Fire Chief Bradshaw said we are looking for new truck from Bulldog cost is estimated at \$314,000.00. Chief Bradshaw said stabilization has the funds to cover this purchase and he would like to get the ball rolling on the process. Chief Bradshaw said this apparatus works like a class A pumper but it is half the cost. Chief Bradshaw said he would like this to be on the Special Town Meeting Warrant (possibly January 2023).

Chief Bradshaw gave a report on status of other vehicles and their winter storage. Chief Bradshaw gave a brief update on staff training and coverage. He shared a request for apron at North Rd Station get some attention from the Highway department. Chief Bradshaw asked the next time there is paving going on in town we get some at the N. Rd Fire station for this repair.

### Fire Department Continued...

Mr. Carroll asked if 121 should be declared surplus or if Fire Chief plans on repairs and bringing back into service. Chief Bradshaw said it should be declared surplus.

Chairperson Rossi advised Mr. Carroll once we are able to call a special town Meeting to add the Fire Department Stabilization expense in purchasing the new truck.

At 7:06 PM with no dire items for discussion Chairperson Rossi asked for a motion to adjourn.

Mr. Malkin moved to adjourn. Mr. Doty seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

**Approved 12/06/2022**

### Document list:

- Mass. Department of Public Utilities notice of public hearing – petition of Cape Light Compact JPE Approval of Strategic Electrification & Energy Optimization Demonstration Project 11/4/2022
- CCMHG – Approved Senior health insurance plan rates for CY2023
- Chilmark HRB recommendation - starting Library position at step 5 11/3/2022
- Chilmark Housing Committee – request 75% of short-term rental tax be put to Molly Flender Municipal Affordable Housing Trust 11/10/2022
- Chilmark Town Treasurer request continuation of assistant position 11/10/2022
- Notice of Annual Retiree Benefit Fair at VTA conference room on Nov. 15, 2022
- Letter to Island Select Boards from Housing Bank Review Committee requesting action on submitting legislation 11/09/2022