

Chilmark Board of Selectmen November 19, 2019 Meeting Minutes

Present: Chairman Warren Doty, Bill Rossi and James Malkin. Others; Tim Carroll, Police Chief Jonathan Klarén, Fire Chief Jeremy Bradshaw, Pam Bunker, Peter Cook, Rob Hannemann, Molly Doyle, Stephen Lewenberg, Jerald Katch. News reporter Rich Saltzberg and videographer Lynn Christoffers.

At 5:00 PM Chairman Doty called meeting to order in the Selectmen's meeting room at the Chilmark town hall.

Chairman Doty opened the Public Hearing; following the requirements of the Chilmark town bylaw to hold hearing in advance of any override votes at an election. Chilmark has called a Special Election for Wednesday, December 4, 2019 from Noon to 8:00 PM.

There is a single question on the ballot: *Shall the Town of Chilmark be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bonds issued in order to pay costs of architectural services to design the Fire Station at 3 Menemsha Crossroad and the EMS building at 399 Middle Road, and for the payment of any and all other costs incidental and related thereto?*

Chairman Doty said we hope that Chilmark voters vote yes on December 4th. Chairman Doty asked if anyone had comments or questions about this election question. Mr. Rossi said this is for the architectural fees and the OPM we will be returning to the town to vote more funding at Annual Town Meeting. Chief Bradshaw said this (if supported with yes vote) would be moving in the right direction. Peter Cook said he is surprised at how few people come to the public hearings about items that are very significant issues. Mr. Rossi said we will continue to have many hearings for public input for building the Fire and Ambulance stations. Mr. Rossi said the Public Safety Building Committee is meeting every Tuesdays at 8:00AM and the public is welcome to attend.

Mr. Carroll said this public hearing notice was mailed to every Chilmark voter on November 6, 2019. With no further comments Chairman Doty closed the public hearing at 5:09 PM

At 5:10 PM Chairman Doty opened Public Hearing for Tax Classification
Assistant Assessor Pam Bunker presented this to Selectmen and folks present.

The purpose of the Classification Hearing is to allow the Selectmen the option to shift the tax burden between property classes or keeping the tax burden equal. This doesn't change the total tax levy for the community; it simply determines the share to be borne by each class. The five classes of Real Estate are: Residential, Open Space, Commercial, Industrial, & Personal Property.

Along with the vote determining whether or not to split the tax rate; there are three other votes that should be made:

A vote not to adopt the Open Space Discount. (The Town of Chilmark does not classify vacant land as "open space" by the DOR standards, because the town has never considered splitting the tax rate.)

A vote not to adopt the Residential Exemption. (Since the non-voting tax payers make up of 80% of the town's levy, it has always been recommended not to adopt the Residential Exemption).

The last vote is not to adopt the Small Commercial Exemption. (The town has never considered splitting the tax rate, so this small commercial Exemption is not applicable.)

The Board of Assessors would like to recommend that the Board of Selectmen adopt a single tax rate and vote to accept the residential factor of 1.

Vote not to adopt the Open Space Discount.

Vote not to adopt the Residential Exemption.

Vote not to adopt the Small Commercial Exemption

Mr. Katch asked for some clarifications and Ms. Bunker gave them.

With no further questions or comments Chairman Doty closed the public hearing at 5:14 PM

Tax Classification Continued...

Mr. Malkin moved to support the Assessor's recommendation to adopt a single tax rate and vote to accept the residential factor of 1. Mr. Rossi seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Mr. Malkin moved not to adopt the following three items; Open Space Discount, Residential Exemption or the Small Commercial Exemption. Mr. Rossi seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Minutes:

Draft minutes from Selectmen's October 1, 2019 meeting were reviewed, a correction was made. Mr. Malkin moved to approve minutes as corrected. Mr. Rossi seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Draft minutes from Selectmen's October 15, 2019 meeting were reviewed, corrections were made. Mr. Rossi moved to approve minutes as corrected. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Draft minutes from Selectmen's October 24, 2019 meeting were reviewed. Mr. Rossi moved to approve minutes as written. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Harbormaster:

Chairman Doty said the Harbormaster has completed the preliminary evaluation period and we will vote to appoint him a permanent employee. Mr. Malkin said he completed an evaluation of Harbormaster Rossi. Mr. Malkin said Ryan Rossi is doing a great job and moved to recommend Ryan Rossi as a permanent employee. Chairman Doty seconded the motion.

SO VOTED: 2 Ayes, 1 Abstain *Bill Rossi is related to Ryan Rossi*

Police Chief - Contract notice:

Chairman Doty said we are receiving a notice from Police Chief Klarén of his desire to negotiate a contract for the position of Police Chief as the existing contract expires March 21, 2020. Police Chief Klarén said in the contract it states if the contract is to be negotiated or not negotiated that needs to be submitted 3 months prior to contract expiration and that is why he submitted it.

Mr. Rossi moved to accept this notice and to have Mr. Malkin meet with Police Chief Klarén to begin the process of going over the contract in the process of renewing a contract. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion.

SO VOTED: 3 Ayes

Building Inspector:

Chairman Doty said Lenny Jason has been the building inspector in Chilmark and Edgartown for many years and he will retire from Edgartown at the end of November 2019. The retirement law requires him to retire from both jobs. This will allow him to start his retirement benefits. Chairman Doty said Lenny Jason will then be hired as our building inspector for 2 days a week. The new hours for Chilmark Building Department will be Tuesdays & Thursdays 1:00 PM -5:00 PM.

Mr. Rossi said he is very happy Lenny will continue as our inspector, and we need to start thinking and planning a succession because it is a very specialized skill to be a building inspector. Mr. Rossi will talk with Mr. Jason about formulating a succession.

Energy Committee:

Rob Hannemann, Molly Doyle, Jerald Katch and Steve Lewenberg presented the 100% Renewable Martha's Vineyard Community Resolution. Mr. Hannemann presented the plan in a slideshow and at the completion asked if the Selectmen would agree to put this on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Mr. Hannemann said each town will have this on their ATM warrant.

To see if the Town will vote to adopt the following Island-wide goals in

response to the developing climate change crisis:

Energy Committee ATM warrant continued...

- Reduce fossil fuel use on the Island (from a 2018 baseline):
 - 50% by 2030
 - 100% by 2040
- Increase the fraction of our electricity use that is renewable:
 - To 50% by 2030
 - To 100% by 2040
- Foster biosphere carbon capture through:
 - Adoption of regenerative agriculture and landscaping
 - Protection and expansion of wetlands
- Preservation of woodland resources;
and further, to request that the Town Energy Committee annually monitor progress toward the achievement of these goals.

Mr. Hannemann explained this is a non-binding article. The goals in the warrant article are indeed aspirational and non-binding. If adopted, they will guide both regional and town-level planning, and they are complementary to our climate change adaptation efforts. Our success in meeting these goals will reflect the values we share and the leadership that we can demonstrate.

No action was taken at this time but a place holder will be on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Cape & Vineyard Electric Cooperative (CVEC):

Mr. Lewenberg who is our Chilmark representative on the CVEC Board explained that there is a need for funds to cover administrative cost. Mr. Lewenberg said CVEC is asking each town (who are part of CVEC) to continue the Adder for another year at a reduced amount. The amount would be a ¼ of a penny for each solar project. Mr. Carroll said this to Chilmark would cost \$45.00.

Mr. Malkin moved to approve this request. Mr. Rossi seconded the motion. **SO VOTED: 3 Ayes**

Fire Chief - report:

Chief Bradshaw said at the last fire department meeting we started our baseline physicals thanks to Janice Brown. Robin Hackett new manager at Beetle Bung Farm is the newest firefighter recruited, and has started the training. Chief Bradshaw said the department is using the new firehouse software and it is up and running. All alarm calls and incidents have been uploaded to the software in preparation to send to the Fire Marshall. Chief Bradshaw said he is continuing to work on the water sources. Chief Bradshaw is working with Ms. Seidel at the MV Commission who is doing a map overlay to show the areas that are vulnerable. Chief Bradshaw has purchased reflective address signs and reflective tape to mark where propane tanks are located in town. Chief Bradshaw said his FY21 budget is almost complete. He will meet with the Chilmark Accountant next week to finalize the budget figures.

Police Chief - report:

Chief Klarén said the training that we held at the 399 Middle Road property went very well. Chilmark Police department hosted a joint training exercise on November 17, 2019 to drill for a hostage scenario. Police Fire and EMS departments worked together on this exercise. Chief Klarén said there were many great takeaways from this experience. Selectmen said they are thankful that we have well trained emergency teams here in Chilmark.

Policies for Future Review:

- Financial Policies - Mr. Carroll said he distributed our 2014 Policies to the FinCom, Accountant & Treasurer to solicit input for any updates before the bonding process. Mr. Carroll said he has brought this back to the Selectmen to review. Mr. Carroll said there are no changes proposed at this time.

Chairman Doty asked if there were any further items to discuss. Mr. Malkin said he would like to hear from the Planning Board at the next Selectmen's Meeting about the Peaked Hill Pasture property plans. Mr. Cook said he would bring this request to the Planning Board at their next meeting. Mr. Malkin asked if the Chilmark Planning Board would talk to West Tisbury about the pros and cons of the Scott's Grove project and also talk to Island Housing Trust about Scott's Grove.

Chairman Doty said he has a handout for a Chilmark School K-1 tour of class made models of town landmarks & buildings Thursday 21, 2019 at 8:45 AM.

Policies for Future Review Continued...

- Hunting Policies - Mr. Carroll said he is seeking volunteers from the community to serve on a committee this winter to review and update our 1998 Hunting policies. Mr. Carroll said there are 2 more applications for hunting Town properties. Keith Maciel and Brian Murphy have applied to hunt the Chilmark Town Forest.

With no further items for discussion Mr. Rossi moved to adjourn. Mr. Malkin seconded the motion.

SO VOTED: 3 Ayes

Minutes respectfully submitted by Diana DeBlase.

Approved 12/03/2019

Document list:

- Advertisement for public hearing on override question on ballot of Special Election 12/04/2019 and allocation of tax levy for 2020
- Draft meeting minutes 10/1/2019, 10/15/2019 & 10/24/2019
- Police Chief notice about Contract to renegotiate as it expires 03/21/020
- Request from Energy Committee for town to adopt 100% Renewable MV Community Resolution
- FAQ - page about 100% Renewable MV
- Cape Light Compact request to extend CVEC Round 1 Adder for FY2021
- Signage of Building Inspector hours starting December 2019
- 2014 Financial Policies
- 1998 Chilmark Hunting Policy
- Zoning Board decisions for Sept 2019 and Agenda for Nov 2019 (no meeting in Oct)
- MDAR request that Chilmark ACO continue training
- MIIA notice of Builders Risk Insurance Program
- Notice from ComCast about program for computers for low income families and internet connection
- Middle Line Road Rental Apartments balance sheet 09/30/2019
- Middle Line Road (MLR) Profit & Loss report FY20-09/30/2019
- MLR Budget VS Actuals FY20-09/30/2019
- DMF notice of shellfish closures 11/13/2019