

Present: Riggs Parker, Frank Fenner, Warren Doty, Jonathan Revere, Tim Carroll, Max McCreery, Ebba Heirta, Anne Wallace, Chief Tim Rich, Dennis Jason, Thomas Bena, Susan Vaughn.

Meeting called to order at 7:30 PM by Chairman Parker in the Selectmen’s Meeting Room.

Minutes

Minutes of October 3rd 2006 approved as corrected.

Martha’s Vineyard Community Services

Anne Wallace of Women Support Services came before the board with Chief Rich to request the Selectmen adopt a proclamation on Domestic Violence.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, domestic violence is a pattern of coercion and control in an interpersonal relationship where one individual uses violence or the threat of violence to gain power and control over the other individual; and

Whereas, domestic violence violates an individual’s sense of privacy, dignity, security and humanity due to the systematic use of verbal, physical, emotional, psychological, economic and sexual control and/or abuse; and

Whereas, children who witness domestic violence too often grow up to inflict violence on others or become victims of violence, creating an intergenerational cycle of violence that must be stopped; and

Whereas, the tolerance of and indifference to the signs and issues of domestic violence only serve to continue the prevalence of domestic violence and thwart efforts to end and prevent domestic violence; and

Whereas, the incidence of domestic violence is not confined to any group or groups of people but cuts across all economic, racial and societal barriers; and

Whereas, the impact of domestic violence is wide-ranging, directly effecting individuals, families, friends, classrooms, businesses, neighborhoods, towns, and society as a whole, across this state and throughout the United States and the world;

Now, therefore, we, the Chilmark Board of Selectmen, do hereby proclaim October as “Domestic Violence Prevention Month” and urge all residents to support the efforts to end and prevent domestic violence within our town and across the Cape and Islands.

SO VOTED: Three Ayes

Jackie Mendez Diez

Ms. Diez was not present.

Personnel Board - Library

Library Director Ebba Hierta presented the new position description for the Assistant to the Library Director. The new position is “Assistant Director / Youth Services Librarian” and the Personnel Board recommended it be paid on Grade 7. The director asked for the Selectmen to approve the new position description and grade assignment.

Mr. Doty questioned the general path the town seemed to be on, that was increasing the hours worked and the step or grade employees were paid on. He said he was concerned where this was headed. Mr. Parker said that the Personnel Board was looking into only allowing step increases for good performance in the future. Ms. Hierta said that in three of the other town libraries the equivalent position is paid similar to our grade 7. Mr. Parker said that we need to address on a more general basis and not visit it upon this employee now.

Mr. Doty asked what changes were made to the position description on how the position works with the school. Ms. Hierta said section G. Mr. Doty asked if any of the changes had been reviewed with the school. Ms. Hierta said no. Mr. Doty said that the school should have a chance to comment on the new duties and responsibilities. Ms. Hierta disagreed.

Mr. Fenner moved and Mr. Doty seconded a motion to approve the new position description and assignment of grade 7. SO VOTED: Three Ayes.

Mr. Doty said that he applauded the current employee’s performance and said his concerns were more general.

Personnel Board - Shellfish Department

Max McCreery presented a memorandum from the Personnel Board to the Selectmen. It said the Selectmen should develop a plan before revising the Shellfish Constable position description. The Personnel Board further recommended that the Selectmen appoint a committee with one expert, preferably a marine biologist. There was discussion.

Mr. Parker said the Shellfish Constable would be an ex officio member of the committee. Mr. Carroll suggested asking the commercial shell fishermen to participate. Mr. McCreery recommended Paul Bagnal, David Grunden and Brett Stearns be asked to participate. The Selectmen discussed participation by Greg Skomal and Mike Syslo.

Mr. Parker said he wanted two things, a mission statement for this department and a structure to achieve that. Mr. Doty said the committee should be limited to five members, that the Selectmen should seek members to participate and one member should be a woman. There was discussion that the committee should not be made up of all shell fishermen and that at least one member should represent a different point of view.

Mr. Fenner moved that the board approve the concept of a committee to bring back recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for changes to the Shellfish Department and that discussion be scheduled for the November 8th Selectmen’s meeting. SO VOTED: Three Ayes.

Commercial Shellfish License

Mr. Doty moved and Mr. Fenner seconded a motion to authorize a commercial shell fishing permit to Wes Brighton with the understanding he was currently a town resident. SO VOTED: Three Ayes.

Harbor - Slips 12 & 13

Mr. Parker related how the loss of nine feet to the depth of Slips 12 & 13 due to the construction of the new concrete floating dock had created a concern for the two summer residents assigned to those slips and how their boats had been accommodated on the Channel Side of the West/Filled Dock this summer.

The issue was discussed and a memorandum from the Harbor Master was reviewed. The board was in disagreement over significance of the actual use of the channel side of the West/Filled Dock since it was built to berth yachts, and its designation in the 1999 Waterways Rules & Regulations as a commercial dock.

The board agreed to hold a joint meeting with the full Harbor Advisory Committee on November 2nd at 7:00 PM to discuss where the boats assigned to Slips 12 & 13 will be assigned for the coming season. This is necessary at this time to allow the leases for seasonal slips to be sent out on November 15th as per the new Waterways Rules and Regulations.

Mr. Parker said that we should also get a decision on the electrical cost for 50 amp service in the three seasonal slips.

School DOE Funding Formula

Mr. Parker reported on his and Mr. Doty's attendance at a meeting with Representative Turkington and the Deputy Commissioner of Education. The formula involves the value of assets in each town and the reported income of towns people. The state law prescribes an 82 ½ % cap on foundation spending. We all are over this cap. The state believes this is a transitional period which effects distribution of the cost and once this period is over, the disparity will be much less than it is now (\$130,000 for Chilmark in FY07 scenario).

Mr. Doty said the state is working on numbers now and there might be a possibility to move to the final point now instead of going through the transitional period first. He said the state kept telling the meeting that the formula was too complex to explain. After the two hour meeting, people left without an understanding of the formula. He said that the towns have a lot to do in order to understand this, but that we may not have any choice in the end.

One town could force the use of new this formula on all the other members of a school district. Mr. Parker said that the good news was our new Superintendent of Schools extracted a promise from DOE to run more numbers for the island. Mr. Doty asked to have one person from the town or FINCOM assigned to follow up on this issue. Mr. Carroll suggested Frank Yeomans. Mr. Fenner said that this will create two years of volatility. Mr Parker and Mr. Doty said that we do not know what will be the outcome.

Mr. Doty moved and Mr. Fenner seconded a motion to ask Frank Yeomans to gather the facts on this issue. SO VOTED: Three Ayes.

School Zone Light

Mr. Carroll asked Chief Rich if it was necessary to pay more than \$2,700 to replace the School Zone flashing light in Beetlebung Corners. Chief Rich said that it was worth that to avoid the liability of not having it. The Selectmen told the ExecSec to explore ways of funding to reduce the cost and split it with the school if the school cannot afford to replace it themselves.

DOR / VTA

Mr. Parker explained the situation in that the state says Chilmark owes the VTA approximately \$171,000. Mr. Doty said no to paying this bill. He objected to the state going back seven years and then telling the town to pay for something it was never billed for.

Mr. Carroll said that the town accountant and treasurer were looking at the numbers and were not coming up with the same ones sent to us by the state. Mr. Doty said that this was not the VTA's problem, that they are well run, but that it was the state's problem and the state should make the VTA whole for the shortfall. Mr. Doty directed the Executive Secretary to not place this request on any warrant for payment until a future date. Mr. Parker said to not pay this request without a vote of the town.

It was agreed to tell the state that the Selectmen have seen their letter and are annoyed. They agreed that the request would not be put on a warrant without their express consent.

Community Center - Film Festival

Thomas Bena came before the board to ask for permission to hold his annual festival at the center. He said he wanted to have the same tent as last year. He asked for access to the building a day earlier, Thursday evening, and a day longer, Monday, than last year in order to make set up and cleanup easier to accomplish.

The Selectmen did not want to displace the two events scheduled on Thursday or Monday. They agreed to allow the Film Festival access to the center if Mr. Bena worked it out with the other groups first.

The Selectmen asked Chief Rich for his report on last year's film festival. He said that it had been a busy and popular event. Saturday was particularly crowded, and he commented that the Bank and Library were open at the same time. He said there had been some less than ideal parking, but that no accidents had been reported. He asked that the ballfield be opened for parking if the ground is firm this year. The Selectmen were concerned about the state of the grass area in March.

Mr. Doty moved and Mr. Fenner seconded a motion to approve under the same conditions as last year for March 16 - 18th as long as Mr. Bena speaks to the dance and exercise classes to work out a mutual agreement. SO VOTED: Three Ayes.

Community Center - Repairs

The board reviewed the written plan from Mr. Bunker and authorized Mr. Carroll to proceed with the next step.

State Election

The Selectmen signed a warrant to call the state election.

Fischer Resident Homesite

The attorney for Andrew Fischer and his family asked if it would be ok to use the same deed rider as the one approved by the Selectmen for Brian Cioffi. The board agreed.

Auditors

Discussion of the good job they have done and that they are offering to lock in the same price as this year for three more years. Mr. Doty moved and Mr. Fener seconded a motion to

authorize the chairman to sign a contract with Powers & Sullivan for three years of auditing services at \$18,000 a year. SO VOTED: Three Ayes.

Distributed Antenna System

Mr. Fenner reported that West Tisbury Police Chief Beth Toomey was looking into the public safety applications of the system.

Ambulance - Billing

Mr. Parker said the audit was not listing the ambulance as a joint venture.

Police

It was reported that the new police cruiser that replaces the one totaled over Labor Day weekend has been received. However the Chief also reported that the next newest cruiser had struck a deer last night and would need minor body work.

DCHD

Mr. Carroll directed the Selectmen's attention to the memorandum from the state Department of Communities, Housing and Development regarding the status of our housing stock. After discussion, Mr. Doty moved and Mr. Fenner seconded a motion to authorize the chairman to sign a letter to DCHD if necessary. SO VOTED: Three Ayes.

Hariph's Creek Town Landing

The Selectmen reviewed a quote to pave a portion of the Hariph's Creek Town Landing parking lot for \$2,893 from White-Lynch. Where the funds would be paid from was discussed. Mr. Fenner will seek permission from the Conservation Commission to do the paving. Mr. Doty moved and Mr. Fenner seconded a motion to repave the ramp section of the Hariph's Creek Town Landing from the entrance to the State road. SO VOTED: Three Ayes.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:36 PM.

APPROVED: November 7th 2006