

Town of Chilmark
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

November 19, 2018

MODERATOR: Everett H. Poole

TOWN CLERK: Jennifer L. Christy

REGISTRARS: Susan M. Heilbron, Judy G.L. Mayhew, Kimberly Cottrill

CONSTABLE: Marshall E. Carroll, III

TELLERS: Jeffrey Maida, Peter Cook

At the close of voter registration on November 9, 2018 there were One thousand and four (1004) registered voters in the Town of Chilmark. With ninety-five (95) voters present at the Annual Town Meeting, a little less than 10% of the total number of registered voters, the Moderator called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., in the Chilmark Community Center at 520 South Road. Constable Marshall E. Carroll, III attested to the posting of the warrant. The Moderator called for a moment of silence to honor the recent passings of two Chilmark residents, James Douglas Morgan and Harriette Poole Otteson. A moment of silence occurred. Selectman Warren Doty stood, subsequently, to honor two other Chilmark residents who passed recently, Mark London and Peter Simon.

Article 1.

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. Tim Carroll was recognized and made a motion to amend the total from \$5905.60 to \$5955.60. The motion to amend was seconded. There was no more discussion. The amendment was brought to a vote. The Moderator declared:

The amendment to Article 1 passed unanimously.

There was no more discussion on the Article, as amended. The Article, as amended, was brought to a vote. The Moderator declared:

Article 1, as amended, passed unanimously.

Article 2.

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. Mary Breslauer was recognized and asked for clarification of the role of the Fire Chief and the Harbormaster and the difference between the amounts for training of new replacement staff. Selectmen Malkin was recognized and stood to explain the more complex staff responsibilities of the Harbormaster position as well as the fact that the Harbormaster will begin work near the start of the summer season. Katie Carroll was recognized and inquired about how \$24,000 was determined as the correct amount and noted that the amount seemed high. Tim Carroll was recognized and stated the amount was based on salary and other costs such as travel. Selectman Rossi stated the amount is correct based on the needs of the department. An employee in the Harbor Dept., Richard Steves, was recognized and stated his view that the amount is excessive. The Article was brought to a voice vote. The Moderator could not determine the vote and called for a standing vote. Tellers Jeff Maida and Peter Cook counted those who stood in favor of the Article. The tellers then counted those who stood opposed. The Moderator stated:

Article 2 is carried, 40-37.

Article 3.

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. There was no discussion. The Article was brought to a vote.

Article 3 passed unanimously.

Article 4.

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. Tim Carroll moved to indefinitely postpone the Article. There was no more discussion. The Article was brought to a vote to indefinitely postpone. The motion to indefinitely postpone Article 4 was voted unanimously. The Moderator stated:

Article 4 is postponed indefinitely.

Article 5:

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. There was no discussion. The Article was brought to a vote.

Article 5 passed unanimously.

Article 6.

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. There was no discussion. The Article was brought to a vote.

Article 6 passed unanimously.

Article 7.

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. There was no discussion. The Article was brought to a vote.

Article 7 passed unanimously.

Article 8.

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. There was no discussion. The Article was brought to a vote.

Article 8 passed unanimously.

Article 9.

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. There was no discussion. The Article was brought to a vote.

Article 9 passed unanimously.

Article 10.

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. Selectman Doty stood to explain the rental program and how the program benefits the Town. There was no more discussion. The Article was brought to a vote.

Article 10 passed unanimously.

Article 11.

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. There was no discussion. The Article was brought to a vote.

Article 11 passed unanimously.

Article 12.

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. Candy Shweder was recognized and moved to amend the Article to read as follows: “To see if the Town will vote to appropriate from available funds in the treasury the sum of \$15,000, to be added to amounts of Annual Town Meeting 2016 Article 16 ‘to construct a bus turn-around north of the Comfort Station’, including costs incidental and relative thereto.” It was noted this amendment would strike “dirt parking area” from the Article. Brief discussion occurred regarding the amendment. Katie Carroll was recognized and urged the Town to vote no on the Article noting that the bus turn-around north of the Comfort Station is not the best solution to the current traffic and safety problems in Menemsha. Selectman Warren Doty was recognized and stated that the Planning Board subcommittee and the Board of Selectmen have held numerous meetings on the topic and stated the new bus turn-around would help to solve the issues that face Menemsha, currently. Barbara Armstrong was recognized and thanked the Planning Board for the hard work that has been done to date to increase safety and traffic flow in Menemsha, but also noted that the latest plan will eliminate seven parking spaces and she feels this change warrants revisiting the proposal for the bus turn-around. Ms. Armstrong urged a no vote on the Article. Janet Weidner, Planning Board and subcommittee members, was recognized and stated that there were numerous meetings on the topic of Menemsha planning to increase safety and traffic flow. Selectman Doty was recognized and reiterated the need to respond to the need for better safety in Menemsha for visitors and better traffic flow. More brief discussion occurred and the Moderator then called for a vote on the amendment to Article 12. The Moderator declared:

The amendment to Article 12 passed unanimously.

The Moderator read the Article, as amended. The Article, as amended, was seconded. Valerie Sonnenthal stood to recommend that the Vineyard Transit Authority (VTA) buses not enter Menemsha and that riders utilize a small shuttle bus to take them to a VTA bus stop outside of Menemsha. Selectman Doty briefly described the requirements of the VTA. Tim Carroll was recognized and explained how the VTA determines the size of buses for their fleet and the rate of occurrence of trips. There was no more discussion. The Article, as amended, was brought to a vote. The Moderator stated:

Article 12, as amended, is carried.

Article 13.

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. There was very brief discussion regarding the material of the walkway. The Article was brought to a vote. The Moderator declared:

Article 13 passed unanimously.

Article 14.

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. Deborah Packer was recognized and read a prepared statement and urged the Town to vote no. Leonard Jason, Jr. was recognized and also urged a no vote on the Article. There was no more discussion and the Article was brought to a voice vote. The Moderator stated that the Article appears to be lost and he called for a standing vote. Those in favor of the Article stood and the tellers counted. The Moderator then requested those opposed to please stand. Without the counting of those opposed, the Moderator declared:

Article 14 is defeated.

Article 15.

The Article was read by the Moderator, moved and seconded. Leonard Jason, Jr. stood and moved to amend the Article to strike the words "Storage Area for Commercial Fishermen". The motion was seconded. Selectman Doty was recognized and cited the changing fishing industry, the fact that fishermen may not have available storage at their place of residence and that equipment may be less portable than in the past as reasons to support the Article. Peter Cook was recognized and suggested that the Article be amended to eliminate the words within the parentheses altogether thereby allowing for the most flexibility in the use of the parcel. There was more brief discussion and former Selectman and fisherman Jonathan Mayhew stood to ask the Town to support the Article. The amendment was brought to a vote. The Moderator stated:

The amendment to Article 15 is lost.

Former Selectwoman Pamela Goff was recognized and moved to add the following to the Article, after the parcel number 013-035-00 and before the words "including costs incidental and relative thereto": "or, if parcel 13-035-00 is found to be a suitable site for affordable housing, to create a design and layout of the above municipal uses on parcels 020-047-01, -02, -03, -17, -18 where the Highway Department and fisherman's storage is currently located". A written amendment was provided to the Moderator and he read the amendment aloud. The Moderator conferred with Town Counsel. The Moderator stated he would not allow the amendment to be considered since it includes parcels that are not listed in the original Article. Mrs. Goff urged a no vote on the Article as written and stated she would prefer housing rather than storage in the area. Heather Goff was recognized and moved to amend the Article to include "affordable housing as one of the municipal uses". The motion to amend the Article was seconded. Former Police Chief Timothy Rich was recognized and asked the size of the parcel. It was confirmed that the size of the parcel is 8 acres. Rodney Bunker inquired how much of the parcel is developable. The answer to this question was not known. Jane Kaplan was recognized and noted the purpose of the Article is to provide funds to create a design and layout of a parcel for uses that have not yet been determined. Ms. Kaplan urged the Town to carefully consider the question of uses before requesting funds for design and layout. The amendment to Article 15 was brought to a vote. The Moderator declared:

The amendment to Article 15 is defeated.

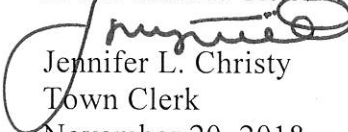
The Moderator read the Article 15 again. There was further brief discussion and the Moderator called for a vote. The Moderator could not determine the result from a voice vote and called for all those in favor to please stand. The Tellers counted those standing

in favor. Those opposed then stood and the Tellers counted those opposed. The Moderator stated:

Article 15 is carried.

The Moderator inquired if there was any more business to come before the Special Town Meeting. Cemetery Commissioner Sarah Cook stood and asked anyone interested in serving on the Cemetery Commission to please contact Timothy Carroll. The Moderator declared the meeting dissolved at 8:45 p.m.

A true record. Attest:


Jennifer L. Christy
Town Clerk
November 20, 2018