The Board of Selectmen met in Executive Session on September 22, 2009 in the Tisbury Town Hall.

Present: Tristan R. Israel, Chairman; Jeffrey C. Kristal; and Geoghan E. Coogan, Clerk; Town Administrator John R. Bugbee and Aase M. Jones, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

Motion: To go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, not to reconvene in Open Session. Seconded.

Voting: Mr. Coogan: Yes; Mr. Israel: Yes; Mr. Kristal: Yes.

Convened in Executive Session: 6:55 p.m. M/s/c.

Police Union Contract Offer: was the topic for discussion. Mr. Israel asked if Mr. Coogan had had an opportunity to present the offer that the Selectmen had agreed to make at their meeting in Executive Session on September 17, 2009, as a last-ditch effort to resolve the stalemate in the negotiations before going to arbitration in Boston on September 30, 2009.

Mr. Coogan responded that he did not have all the facts to make the offer and added that the Board should schedule an emergency meeting if a resolution can be reached prior to September 30th.

Town Administrator John Bugbee cautioned that there are strict guidelines for emergency meetings and added that the reasons and circumstances have to be unforeseen and unanticipated.

After a brief discussion the Selectmen agreed to post a meeting for Friday, September 25, 2009 at Noon in the Town Hall to cover the eventuality that there is a response from the Union.

Mr. Bugbee then summarized the offer that had been agreed on to present at the Board’s meeting on September 17th:

1) 3.5%; 3.75%; and 4%;

2) Increase in longevity is also on the table. The increase would be by 60 cents/hour, i.e., 20 years: from $1.40/hr to $2.00/hr; 15 years: from $1.25/hr. to $1.80/hr.; and 10 years: from $1.00/hr. to $1.60/hr. Mr. Bugbee noted that $1.00/hr. is what the Town originally proposed - the former/current longevity for 10 years is 96 cents/hr. Mr. Bugbee pointed out that in Tisbury the longevity is done as an hourly rate while the other Towns are giving an annual stipend, and noted that there are 4 officers who get the 20-year longevity stipend, 1 who gets the 15-year and 1 the 10-year stipend.

3) The additional step would be thrown out.

The Selectmen discussed the potential cost of this offer, including longevity and the possibility of a counter-offer from the police negotiating team, but agreed that the drop-dead date is Tuesday.

Mr. Coogan stated that he will throw in longevity if the first proposal is rejected.
Possible Oak Bluffs – Tisbury Police Department Cooperation: was discussed briefly next.

Mr. Israel noted that the Town is working with Oak Bluffs on some issues, adding that Oak Bluffs Police Department protocol is different from ours, which he suggested we need to be aware of when entering into discussions about joint operations. He clarified by stating that Tisbury Police Department has a different “style” than what Oak Bluffs has, which has what he described as a more military style of policing. He added that this type of policing was brought to Oak Bluffs by former Police Chief Joe Carter, and stated further that the difference in the communities is the issue.

Selectman Kristal pointed out that training at the Police Academy is for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, not for specific towns in Massachusetts.

Mr. Israel suggested that one model is to share a chief and resources on an as needed basis.

Town Administrator John Bugbee noted that Erik Blake (Oak Bluffs Chief of Police) does not want to have 7-8 bosses (i.e., both Boards of Selectmen).

Mr. Israel stated that he is not in favor of a totally new department.

Mr. Kristal pointed out this is what the state has adopted.

Mr. Israel reiterated that he does not favor a separate Police Board, adding that this would lead to a more fractured government, suggesting perhaps some Selectmen and the Town Administrators.

Mr. Coogan spoke briefly about the way that the Oak Bluffs Police Department operates, and suggested that Tisbury may need a little more of what he described as “protocol”.

There being no further business in Executive Session,

Motion for Adjournment: 7:20 p.m. M/s/c.

Respectfully submitted,

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Tristan R. Israel, Chairman  Aase M. Jones, Asst. to Town Adm.

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Jeffrey C. Kristal   Geoghan E. Coogan, Clerk