

Approved 9/26/18
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, September 05, 2018 4:30 p.m. – 5:40 pm

Present: Selectmen Cynthia Mitchell, Kent Healy, Skipper Manter, Jen Rand

Also Present: Rosemary Hagazian, Steve & Sandra Atwood, Seth Cooperrider, Patty Grant, Tony Cordray, Bruce Stone, Doug Ruskin

Dog Complaint – Cooperrider: Cindy read a report from Tony Cordray, Animal Control Officer (ACO) outlining a history of complaints about the Cooperrider's dogs, of which there were at least 3 and sometimes 5. The complaint recently centers on the ability of the Atwoods to safely travel along the right of way that passes through the Cooperrider property to their own property. The dogs are frequently loose and chase the car leaving Mrs. Atwood fearful to leave her vehicle and go into the house. Tony said that he had worked with the Chief of Police to mediate between the parties, and the Atwoods were to drive more slowly along the drive and the dogs were to be restrained. The report included photos of the dogs in the road after that mediation. Mr. Cooperrider has been issued two citations that have not yet been paid or appealed. Tony said he recommended a 6' high fence enclosing an area at least 1,000 square feet with double gates and a shelter appropriately sized for three dogs.. Further he said the dogs should always be leashed when outside the enclosure. Seth asked why his dogs couldn't be loose on his own property. Skipper said they had to be under his control at all times, which included his property. Seth said if he had to put up a fence he could fence his whole property in and require the Atwoods to travel through gates to get to their house. Rosemary said there were many issues surrounding the use of the right of way; the Cooperriders had been digging ditches to make travel difficult. Skipper said the only thing that the Board had any control over was the dogs; the rest was a civil matter. Cindy noted that Mass General Law would allow the ACO to seize the dogs if the order were not followed. Seth asked if he could put in an electric fence. Tony said the State does not recognize that as appropriate fencing because it so often fails. Skipper suggested that until the fence was built the dogs could be tethered when outside.

S. Manter motioned to adopt the recommendation of the ACO as follows: Mr. Cooperrider has until noon on October 5, 2018 to install a 6' high fence enclosing an area at least 1,000 square feet with double gates and a shelter appropriately sized for three dogs. Further the dogs shall always be leashed when outside the enclosure, the fence and shelter are to be inspected by the ACO. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

S. Manter motioned to close the public hearing. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Minutes: *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 8/1, 8/8, 8/14 & 8/22/18. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

ClearGov Transparency Website Addition: Bruce said that he and Jen had met with a representative of ClearGov to talk about adding that feature to the website. Jen said she had seen the product at a vendor fair a few years ago and was anxious to add it to the new website. She said that everyone understands budgets in different ways, and this would allow the town to present their spending and upcoming budgets in a very user friendly manner. Bruce outlined the source of the data used on the site, which is a combination of data from the State and from his office, and noted the limitations of the information because the schools are a district and don't

provide data the same way. He said there is another module offered by the company that is for internal budgeting purposes. He was interested in trying that module as well to see if it helped simplify the annual budget process. Cindy asked the cost of both. Bruce said that with an offered discount to purchase both the town would owe \$7,500. Remaining grant money from the web project would pay for about \$6,500 of that. Skipper said he wasn't sure there was \$6,500 of value when you consider the impact of the school budget, which would not be presented in a useful way. Doug said he thought Jen was right and that presenting the budget in a graphic format would be very useful for taxpayers. Kent agreed. Doug added that perhaps the school district could be encouraged to sign onto the data platform as well.

S. Manter motioned to authorize Bruce and Jen to proceed with a contract with ClearGov for a year. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Community Preservation (CPC) Project Signs: Jen showed the Board a sign that the CPC had asked permission to place on the Town Hall and Field Gallery indicating the CPC had supported the project. Skipper said he was not in favor of any more signs. Cindy said she thought there was value in educating people where the funding came from. Skipper said they may need permission from the Historic Commission.

K. Healy motioned to allow the signs. S. Manter seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Council on Aging Appointment: *S. Manter motioned to appoint Diana Braillard to the position of Administrative Clerk II at the Council on Aging beginning October 1 at Grade 2 Step 1. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

The Board discussed whether emails from a Board members private account were considered public. Jen was asked to investigate.