

Approved 10/11/17
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING
Wednesday, September 13, 2017 5:00 p.m. – 5:44 pm

Present: Selectmen Skipper Manter, Cindy Mitchell, Kent Healy, Jennifer Rand

Also Present: John Rau, Richard Saltzberg, Heather Hamacek

Minutes: *K. Healy motioned to approve the minutes of 8/30/17 with one amendment. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Event Permit – Living Local Harvest Festival: *C. Mitchell motioned to approve the Harvest Festival Event Permit on September 22 & 23 at the Ag. Hall. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

School Funding Formula: Skipper recapped what had been done to date regarding proposed changes to the funding formula for the Up-Island Regional School District. Jen noted she had spoken to Jim Newman, from the Aquinnah Board of Selectmen, who had indicated an interest in meeting even if Chilmark did not wish to. Skipper said that without a unanimous vote of all three towns on any change nothing could happen. Cindy asked if the report could be set aside for now and just meet with all three Boards to try and find a way to move forward. Jen will reach out to the other towns.

Animal Control Officer (ACO) Interviews: Anthony Cordray:, Acting ACO, said he was a resident of the Town; he was looking for a change from his carpentry business, is a member of the WT Fire Department and enjoyed interacting with the public. Cindy asked how he liked the job so far. Tony said he was enjoying the work and found his Academy training to be very useful. Kent asked about night call-outs. Tony said he was used to them from his work on the Fire Department, he said the Communications Center has been happy with his responsiveness. Skipper asked about how he was handling disputes between people. Tony said for the most part he has been able to handle them without involving the Board. Cindy asked if the past structure for when the Assistant ACO is on duty will work. Tony said yes for now, but he thought it would need to be re-visited. Skipper asked about a hypothetical scenario where a dog has killed a neighbor's chickens on more than one occasion. Tony said that he would recommend a fence and leash walking for the dog. If the owner was not cooperative he would recommend a hearing to discuss stronger measures. He noted that euthanasia would be a last resort for him. Kent asked what he would recommend if the dog killed another dog. Tony said there were state laws that applied in that situation.

Meaghan Gouldrup: Skipper noted that Meaghan was his god-daughter but that would not impact his decision. Meaghan said she grew up in West Tisbury, lived in Colorado and now has moved back. She said she rode horses for about ten years and has owned dogs. She noted that she looked up to Joan Jenkinson when she was the town's ACO admiring her compassion for her job. Cindy asked about her experience with dogs. Meaghan said she volunteered at a shelter when she lived in Colorado and she has been a dog sitter. Kent asked her thoughts on the chicken killing dog hypothetical scenario. Meaghan said she wasn't sure what latitude the ACO had, but she would recommend restraints and would only recommend euthanasia as a very last resort. Skipper asked her about night calls. Meaghan said she had no problem with being called out. Cindy asked about her people skills, and dealing with difficult people. Meaghan said she had worked as a landscaper interacting with people who were quite demanding as well as in food service here on

the island. She said she felt she had the skills she needed to deal with people who were unhappy or angry. She said she knows people love their animals and that can make them emotional. Kent asked what she would do if a dog bit a child. Meaghan said it would depend on the severity of the bite, if appropriate and legal she might recommend the dog be re-homed, again she said euthanasia would be a last option. Skipper asked if she had any training or certifications. Meaghan said she recently passed the EMT course. Cindy asked if she would be interested in the Assistant position if she was not offered the full time position. Meaghan said she would.

Skipper said he was very impressed with both candidates. He said it was clear that Tony had jumped into the job with both feet and was working hard now. Kent asked Jen her thoughts as she saw Tony on a regular basis. Jen said she was impressed with both but noted that Tony had been doing a fantastic job and she had no reservations about hiring him.

C. Mitchell motioned to appoint Tony Cordray to the position of Full Time ACO retroactive to July 14, 2017 pending approval of the Personnel Board and Meaghan Gouldrup to the position of Assistant ACO effective date to be determined both at Step 1. K. Healy seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Field Gallery Lease Bid: The Board discussed the option of a lease rental cost escalator and decided against it. They asked that the bid used for the Mill Pond Building be used as a template for this bid. Jen will work on the bid and bring it back for a vote at the next meeting.