

Approved 11/21/16
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**TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMENS MEETING**

Wednesday, October 19, 2016 4:30 p.m. – 5:36 p.m.

Present: Selectmen Richard Knabel, Cynthia Mitchell, Skipper Manter, Jennifer Rand
Also Present: Grant Schenck, Wanda Higgins, Joan Jenkinson, Jim Airasian, Isaac Higgins, Edie Prescott, Heather Hamacek

Minutes: *S. Manter motioned to approve the minutes of 10/5/16. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.*

Lt. Governor's Community Compact: Jen explained that the Town would be eligible for grant funding if they enrolled in the Community Compact program. The goal of the program is to encourage towns to develop "best practices" in a variety of areas, and also to encourage towns to work together for regional solutions to problems. She said that the Town's involvement in the Complete Streets program and the Housing Production Plan would count towards their best practice requirements. She noted that the Town may be able to access grant funds to redo the website as planned and may also allow them to participate in a regional grant to hire a transportation engineer through the MV Commission. She said she didn't think by enrolling the Town would be overcommitting to anything. Richard asked what would happen if the Town did not complete the best practices. Cindy noted then the town would then not apply for any funding.

S. Manter motioned to enroll in the Community Compact. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Higgins Dog Hearing: Richard read the complaint made by Grant Schenck regarding an incident with a dog owned by Wanda & Isaac Higgins. Mr. Schenck was attacked by the dog when he was walking by the property, he did not know immediately that the bite had broken the skin, but once he was safely inside a neighbor's home he discovered the wound and was driven to the hospital. The write-up from Joan Jenkinson, Animal Control Officer (ACO) noted they had been called back to the property another day for a different dog that was loose. Skipper noted that the hearing was only for the dog that bit Mr. Schenck. Joan told the Board that Isaac had moved with the dogs to Edgartown. She recommended that the dog not be allowed back in town, and it should be muzzled when outside or contained in a 6' chain link fence. Isaac said he was working on a fence and he had a muzzle for the dog. Skipper asked if Grant had any medical expenses. He said he did, and thought he was going to hear from Wanda Higgin's insurance company but he had not. Skipper said he didn't think the Board could put conditions on a dog that did not live in West Tisbury and he didn't like having our dog problems go to another town. He added that he felt the muzzle was a form of punishment for the dog. Cindy said the Board had no control over the move, and noted the muzzle is an extreme measure but its clear the dog needs one. Isaac asked if the dog could come into town if in the car. The Board said yes but he must be muzzled and he may not be removed from the car. Joan said that she knows the dog has bitten someone in the past but she has not had a formal complaint. Isaac said he had bitten 2 other people besides Mr. Schenck, but the other two bites were from fear. Skipper told the Higgins that if the Board discovered the dog had moved back to WT the sanctions will be severe.

S. Manter motioned that Mr. Schenck must be made whole on his medical expenses no later than December 31, 2016 and that the dog may not ever be brought back to WT again, and he must be contained in a 6' chain link fence or be on a leash and wear a muzzle when outside. C. Mitchell seconded the motion. The vote on the motion was unanimous in favor.

Assistant ACO Interview – Jim Airasian: Jim said he had always had animals, he is currently a carpenter, and has lived here since 1972. He is employed full-time so he thought this job might be a good fit as he is somewhat flexible. Skipper asked if he would be willing to get certified, Jim said yes. Richard asked if he had any experience mediating disputes between people. He said yes as a contractor. When asked a question about a rooster dispute between neighbors Jim said he knows they are allowed, he might ask the rooster owner to move the coop further from the property line, and would suggest they talk with each other to find a compromise, but it may not be possible. Regarding a family dog that had killed chickens repeatedly, Jim said he would not recommend euthanasia but would work with the owner to find a better method of restraint. He said if needed he could recommend euthanasia. Skipper noted that in his discussion and questions about the job requirements Jim seemed conflicted about whether he wanted the job. Jim said he was due to his current commitments. He said he would think about it and let the Board know the next day if he wished to pursue the job.

Noise Bylaw: Jen asked the Board if they wished to pursue a more comprehensive noise bylaw based on the example she provided. The conversation had begun over the summer when a resident came in to ask the Board if there was any relief from the noise created by her neighbor's use of power equipment. Skipper said he felt the proposed noise bylaw was overkill, and he did not think it was good policy to create a town-wide bylaw for 1 or 2 incidents. Richard asked if there was any legal recourse. Skipper said if there was it would be in civil court, not criminal. Jen will reach out to the individual who raised the issue and explain the outcome.

Taxi Complaint: Jen asked the Board how they wished to proceed as they had not received a response from Mr. Baldwin of Alpha Taxi regarding the complaint against him. The board said to send him a letter giving him until 10/31/16 to respond if he chooses.