

Approved 8/5/20
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
July 22, 2020 4:40 pm
Virtual meeting

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

Also Present: Tony Cordray, Matt Hayden, John Rau, Mike Bellissimo, Omar Johnson, Tara Whiting-Wells, Cynthia Riggs, Lynn Christopherson, Joy Robinson-Lynch, Kristi Strahler, Christine Todd, Nicole Cabot, Laurie Peter, Nicola Blake, Laura Silber, Rich Salzberg and Noah Asimov.

Cindy called the meeting to order at 4:41pm

Minutes: *Skipper moved to approve the Minutes of July 1st. Kent seconded. Roll call vote; all in favor.* The minutes of July 15th were taken under advisement.

New Business:

- **Nuisance Dog Hearing:**

Cindy began by swearing in those that wanted to testify: Tony Cordray, Cynthia Riggs, Lynn Christopherson and Matt Hayden. Tony explained that on July 7th he was called to the Cleveland House (Cynthia's house) for a report of a dog attacking chickens. He investigated and determined that it was likely Matt's dog Nesta. He said that Lynn told him she wanted to lodge a formal complaint. Cynthia then read her statement explaining her side of the story. Lynn concurred with Cynthia's statement. Matt said that he does his best to restrain his dog but she does get loose. He admitted that she could have been the dog in question since there was a period of time he couldn't locate her that day. He said he would do what he needed to do; he just wants to get along with everyone in the neighborhood. Skipper said he believes there was enough evidence to say it was Matt's dog. Tony agreed. Cindy was asked to read the exact definition of a Nuisance Dog.

Skipper moved to declare the dog Nesta a Nuisance Dog as stated by MGL. Kent seconded. Roll call vote; all in favor.

Cindy asked Tony to recommend actions for Mr. Hayden. Tony recommended a 6' tall enclosure, at least 400 sq', with double gates and a large enough shelter inside. He also recommended the dog be leash walked anytime it was outside of the house or enclosure. Matt stated that if that was going to be enforced, he would euthanize the dog himself because he could not afford to build the enclosure. There was discussion of options for assistance or

agencies that would help rehome the dog. Skipper stated he was in favor of euthanasia. There were no further comments.

Skipper made the motion to close the hearing. Kent seconded. Roll call vote, all approved.

Kent then moved to accept Tony's recommendations. Skip asked to amend the motion to give Matt 2 weeks to comply and said that it must be inspected and approved by the ACO (Tony). Kent agreed to the amendment. Skipper seconded. Roll call vote, Cindy and Kent voted Aye, Skipper Nay. Passed by majority.

Skipper also asked about reimbursement to Cynthia. Tony said he had offered but she had declined.

- **Early Voting Schedule for the September 1, 2020 State Primary Election:**

Tara said that the State is requiring in person early voting which will be held at the Public Safety Building on Saturday & Sunday, August 22 & 23, 10 am – noon and Monday August 24th through Friday August 28th from 8:30-1:30 pm. You can still do early voting by mail and you can vote in person on election day.

No action required by the Board.

- **Building Inspector Vacation carry over:**

Skipper moved to approve carry over of 30.5 hours of vacation time for Joe Tierney. Kent seconded. Roll call vote; all in favor.

- **Vote to accept Donations:** \$29,000 from Friends of the Library and \$60,000. From WT Library Foundation.

Skipper moved to accept the donations with thanks to both groups for their continued support. Kent seconded. Roll call vote; all in favor

- **Paupers grave request:** Jen explained that the request came from the Funeral Home for an individual that passed recently that had no family and no money for burial. Cindy wanted to call it something other than 'paupers grave'. Perhaps 'Charity grave'. There was discussion about the request and what it meant for future requests. Jen said they will need to look into it going forward and come up with a policy, but for today they needed to vote for this particular request.

Kent moved to grant the request for a single person charity grave to the Funeral Home. Skipper seconded. Roll call vote; all in favor.

Old Business:

- **Vote to Sign-on in Support of Strengthening the Local Public Health System in Massachusetts:**

Omar spoke to request that the BOS vote to sign-on in support of strength with the Board of Health. He said the Governor had formed a committee in 2016 to look at some of the shortcomings and weaknesses of local and regional health systems. Because of Covid-19 more problems have been found. He spoke about lack of funding and staff and other issues. He said there was a plan to fix some of these problems. Kent had questions about local authority and responsibility. Omar spoke about a proposal to adopt Universal Public Health Standards but said the state is not providing a lot of details at this time. Kent asked that Jen and Omar try to get more info.

Kent moved to sign-on in support of strengthening the local public health system in MA. Skipper seconded. Roll call vote; all in favor

- **Mask Order:** Cindy explained that the BOS can vote to support but it is the BOH who authorizes the order. The BOH will be meeting this week to vote. Omar is recommending a Mandatory Mask Mandate to his board in the 'busy' districts. The North Tisbury business district, the 'Village Center' from Alley's to the gas station and also at the dump / Local Drop-off. He says that the businesses already have orders in place but they want to include parking lots and outdoor spaces like the Field Gallery. Someone asked about signage and Omar said he has it ordered and hopes to have it up next week at the town lines and boundaries of the busy areas. There was discussion about enforcement and Cindy said it was a BOH decision. Mike Bellissimo hoped the BOH would reach out to other towns and encourage them to make it an island wide mandate.

There was further discussion about sending a clear message to the State legislators that West Tisbury would like the mask mandate front and center, published in the Cape and Islands Guidance at the very top as others felt it was lost amongst other info and unclear. It was decided that the request to the State needed to be a separate vote.

Skipper moved to encourage and support the BOH mask order actions in the North Tisbury business district, the 'Village Center' from Alley's to the gas station and also at the dump / Local Drop-off and any other locations they deem necessary. Kent seconded the motion. Roll Call: all in favor

Skipper moved to communicate with State legislators that West Tisbury has passed a mask order that should be included in their next guidance to visitors. Kent seconded the motion. Roll Call: all in favor

Skipper made the motion to adjourn. Kent second. Roll Call: all in favor.

Adjourned 6 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant