

Approved 5/26/21
TOWN OF WEST TISBURY
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
May 19, 2021 4:30 pm
Virtual meeting

Present: Selectmen Skipper Manter, Cynthia Mitchell and Town Administrator Jen Rand

Also present for part or all of the meeting: Tony Cordray Animal Control Officer (ACO), Jim Klingensmith, Carla Gomez, Janet Alley, Sam Hurd, Eunki Seonwoo

Skipper called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Items were taken out of order to accommodate the late arrival of some parties.

Minutes: Vote to approve: May 12th, 2021: They decided to hold off on approving the minutes until Mr. Healy could be present.

Public Hearing: Nuisance Dog:

When all of the parties were present, Skipper called the public hearing to order and read a synopsis of the complaint and noted that all of the documents have been posted on the website with the agenda for the public to see if need be. Tony explained that the dog is in violation of Town bylaw by not being leashed and also MA General Law for harassing livestock. He said that that he has issued citations and can continue to do so. Carla spoke to explained how her child has let the dog loose. Skipper suggested a fenced enclosure so that if the dog was let out it was inside a pen and the child and dog could be caught by the guardians of the child.

Cindy made a motion to close the public hearing. Skipper seconded. Roll call vote: all in favor (2-0).

Ms. Gomez said that she has purchased an electric fence and collar for the dog and is in the process of installing it. Tony does not favor electric fences as the batteries fail. Tony is willing to give it a try with the understanding that if it does not work she must build the enclosure.

Cindy then made a motion to declare the dog a Nuisance Dog and further, that the owner must guarantee that the dog is not outside the house without a leash. The owner must also construct an enclosure that meets the ACO's specifications at the front door if the use of the electric fence does not work to contain the dog. Skipper seconded. Roll call vote: all in favor (2-0).

New Business:

- **Hurd Animal Control Officer Complaint:**

Mr. Hurd didn't have anything new to add, but said that he thought there were inaccuracies in Tony's report. Tony also had nothing new to add that wasn't in his report. Mr. Hurd says he fears retaliation if the dog should get free again. Skipper said there's always 2 sides to a story and without a third-party verification it is difficult to figure out what actually transpired. He doesn't believe that Tony was out of line in the performance of his duties, though there might be disagreement over the words he may have chosen. They have not received any other complaints in the time that Tony has been ACO. Cindy agreed and thinks that Tony represents the Town very well and thinks he will continue to do so. Neither Sam nor Tony had any further remarks and were thanked for coming in.

- **Removal of Access Restrictions to Town Hall:**

Jen would like the Board to vote to approve to begin to allow the public into the building, effective tomorrow (Thursday May 20th). She explained the plan and how it would work. She anticipates that as they move forward they will loosen things even more, but this a 'soft' opening. She also mentioned that with the announcement made by the Governor on Monday, as of June 16th, unless legislation changes, the Board will have to go back to meeting in person in Town Hall. There is proposed legislation to continue remote participation but until and unless that passes, they have to do in person. She has also been working on solutions for hybrid meetings that could include both in person and remote participation. She also spoke about outdoor dining changes. Skipper is very in favor of keeping the Zoom meeting option as he believes it supports the Towns goal for carbon neutrality by 2040.

Cindy made a motion to approve the reopening of Town Hall as presented. Skipper seconded. Roll call vote: all in favor (2-0).

Old Business: There was none.

Topics Not Anticipated:

- Skipper had a question about one of the Articles from ATM the night before, but Jen said that Tisbury didn't pass it so it was a non-issue.

Correspondence: There was none on the agenda but one came in that morning;

- Email from Prudy Burt supporting ACO.

Public Comment: There was none.

Skipper pointed out that they were not going to go into Executive Session to discuss the new Fire Chief contract at this meeting, it was postponed until next week. Jen reminded everyone that

next week they were starting at 4pm for a site visit to the Howes House, provided everyone is available. The regular meeting would be at 5 pm.

With no further business Cindy made the motion to adjourn. Skipper seconded. Roll Call: all in favor (2-0)

Adjourned 5:03 pm

Respectfully Submitted by Janice Haynes, Administrative Assistant