

Present was James M. Tomaszewski, James C. Lehan, Robert J. Garrity, Jack Hathaway, Town Administrator and Marian Harrington, Executive Assistant.

The meeting was held in Room 124, Town Hall. Jim Tomaszewski announced that this meeting will be audio and video taped.

Jim Tomaszewski called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. Jack Hathaway read the agenda contents.

DOG HEARING

Hilary Cohen, Animal Control Officer present. Jim T. swore in all people present. Also present was Police Chief Stone.

Hilary said there has been a problem with the dog Mya. She bulletized issues with the dog and the date (see attached). The first incident was September 26, 2009 and continues until March 2012.

Hilary said that in September 2009, when she first picked Mya up for running at large, she had a prong collar on and a tether cable attached to her. She educated Mr. Palmer and his daughter that it is inhumane to tie a dog out by a long prong correction collar. The owner said the dog pulls. Hilary advised them to seek obedience training and to restrain the dog. She told the Board that prong collars are used as a last resort in dog training.

Hilary stated that one resident said that Mya attacked her dog. Another woman reported the dog on her property, but didn't know who the dog belonged to. Hilary told her to take a photo of the dog, which she did. Hilary then put the photo online and immediately got many responses saying it was the Palmer's dog.

Because Norfolk has a leash law and the Palmer's were in violation of it, Hilary issued an interim restraining order. She then contacted the Town Administrator to have a permanent restraining order issued, which was done. She contacted the Palmers and said that Mya needs to be behind a fence.

The Board asked Hilary what she would like the Board to do tonight. Hilary said she would like Mya ordered to be behind a fence, banished from town or euthanized.

The Board asked about an invisible fence. Hilary explained why an invisible fence wouldn't work. She said it was found that a shock would make the dog more aggressive. This doesn't provide protection to the public.

Stacey and Michael Palmer were present and sworn in by Jim Tomaszewski.

Stacey said that there were specific things that were said that she doesn't recall being discussed with her. Hilary said it is all in police reports at the station.

Stacey told the Board they have been working with a trainer who is doing comprehensive training.

Mike said their property is $\frac{3}{4}$ acre. They looked at an 8,000 sq.ft. fence. Mike says he walks the dog every night and it is not aggressive. He doesn't see her aggressive except when another dog was coming toward her and she reacted. Hilary said that the reports show differently.

Jack questioned the dog not being licensed or vaccinated. The Palmers said the dog is licensed and vaccinated. They have had her 3 years. Mya is 6 yrs old. Mike said this is not their first dog. He has had 3 Malamutes and never had a problem. Jim Tomaszewski asked if the other dogs had any issues with her. Hilary said not for aggression or biting. Hilary said a woman who was a complainant could not be present tonight and sent an email. Hilary read the email (attached herewith).

Stacey said the dog has not been off a leash since this happened. She said an electric fence is about \$1,000. Jim Tomaszewski asked why they are against a fence. Stacey said cost. Hilary told her she should get a second estimate. This one seems high.

Lance Borst, 66 Grove Street said he lives directly behind them. He feels bad for the dog. He said he would come home and see the dog on Grove St. on the bad "S" curve. He feels it's a danger for drivers as well as the dog. He isn't sure what can be done.

Christine West, 67 Grove Street said she is one of the residents that were calling. Mya was on her property and the dog rushed her and she tried to get into the house and had trouble doing so, and was afraid of the dog and called Animal Control. Her and her husband being outside different times couldn't enjoy being out in their yard. She took the photo as Hilary instructed, as she didn't know who it belonged to. David West said there is uneasiness with the dog on their property. It has happened frequently. They are not terrified, just uneasy.

Debra Barrett, 4 Crossbow Road sent an email as she could not attend tonight (see attached). She was walking her dog (a 9 year old yellow lab) on Grove Street and Mya came up from behind her and growled, barked and grabbed her dog by the neck. Her dog yelped with fear and tried to get away. Debra cried for help, but no one heard. Debra yelled at Mya who eventually released her hold, but she followed them down the street a short ways and then disappeared. Debra said to this day her dog is afraid of huskies. She said she would hate to see another dog or even a child experience what they did.

Debra stated that the Palmers should be responsible for their animal and that the leash law was put into effect to protect not only people, but other dogs.

Rob said he always owned dogs. We have a leash law, and documentation of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ yrs. of Mya running around. Rob said you have to control your dog. If we don't do something tonight and the dog gets loose and bites someone, it is now our problem.

The Board agreed they did not like the prong collar.

Jim L. loves dogs and knows the corner well. He agrees with Rob that we need to fix this. We can't have folks afraid on their own property because of your dog. Jim said they have to restrain the dog. You have to come up with something. Jim Tomaszewski agreed and said the dog is aggressive and intimidating and you need to do something. He told them they should put up a fence; a good size one that will let the dog run around. He suggested they try a smaller area so it won't be as expensive. Mike works from home. Stacey said the dog is a digger. The Board said put a slab on

the fence or under so it she can't dig out.

Hilary said training is essential here, too, but no dog trainer will certify the dog will never do a specific problem again.

Hilary said in a municipality, public safety is first. We need the best remedy to take care of the dog. Rob liked the fence solution, and deal with the electric fence issue.

Rob would like proof of vaccination. Hilary said it was after quarantine.

Hilary would like a structural fence. She would agree to 6' with a cover since the dog jumps. It can be 24x24 or half their backyard. Hilary doesn't like electric because other dogs can get into the yard and aggravate their dog that can't get out.

Jim T. told the Palmers they have a responsibility to this dog. Jim said he concurs that you need to do something for the dog. People in the community don't need to feel threatened. Not everyone is a dog lover.

Jack agreed about the electric fence and that it takes work to get the dog to adhere to it. If the Palmers aren't diligent about doors being open, and not up to date with vaccinations, then they won't be diligent about replacing batteries in the dog's collar.

Rob Garrity moved an order that an enclosure be provided for Mya at least 6' high with sufficient structures to impede Mya getting out, and furthermore undergo the training course recommended by the Palmers. Sixty (60) days for fence order for when it will be installed and must be completed within ninety (90) days. If completion or fence order is not in within the 60/90 timeframe, or a violation occurs in the meantime where dog is off her property or showing aggression, we come right back and revisit the other two options (removal by banishment or euthanasia). Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Animal Control

Chief Stone said that he asked Hilary to stay and review her budget with the Board.

Hilary Cohen told the Board what she does in her position.

Jim T. asked what training she should have that she doesn't. She said it depends on what it being offered. Jim T. thanked her for her dedication to the Town and said her job is greatly admired.

Chief Stone reminded the Board that Hilary received the Animal Control Officer of the Year this year by the State.

Jim L. thanked her also for her phenomenal work for the town. Rob Garrity commented on the many tasks required in her job and thanked her.

Chief Stone also mentioned the Animal Inspector Budget, which is mostly a stipend. This position is held by Christopher Wider. He maintains the Barn Book – counts every livestock or farm animal in town. Quarantines are done by both Animal Control and Animal Inspector. They work together to make that happen.

POLICE BUDGET

Chief Charles Stone present.

Chief Stone said they would like to discuss tasers as they would like to add them into their equipment line.

He asked Glen Eykel, our police prosecutor and member of the Metro LEC to come forward. Glen brought a taser for the Board to see, and explained how it functioned. Glen is trained to use a taser and said he has experienced it. He volunteered to be "tazed" because he wanted to know what it felt like if he did it to someone else. He said it does hurt. He said after 5 sec you are fine. He told the Board it was the worst pain he ever felt. They want these for officer safety, and public safety. Sometimes just taking it out will stop someone.

Training is necessary. Chief Stone says it would protect the officer and the public. He would like to do a 3 part plan. His proposal is 6. He could give one to every officer on every shift and protect everyone. The Board and the Chief had a discussion about tasers – pro and con.

This is for capital for fall. He wanted to let everyone hear about this now.

Chief Stone has asked for 3 cruisers. They asked the Chief which one he favors now that Crown Vic's are no longer available. He said none right now. If you wait until the fall, it gives them more time. This is the very first year that the Crown Vic's aren't in the mix. Dodge chargers have had revisions. Chief Stone said Crown Vic's were horrible in snow. Chief Stone said they need 3 to get us back where we should be. He has 13 cars – 7 over 100,000 miles; 6 with 75,000.

Officer Eric Van Ness was present to explain the cruisers and mileage and having a safe vehicle.

Eric said the Ford is an Interceptor and hasn't come out yet. It is too new. It is like the new Taurus. The Chevy is too small; doesn't like it. The Charger is his favorite. The Board said that you need all cars to be the same because you need parts stocked for all vehicles, not three different.

Chief Stone said he has the same staffing level that he had in 1994. 16 officers and 2 clerical staff. But population has increased. He said that Wrentham has 18 full time officers and Plainville has 14 full time. Chief Stone mentioned that he will be retiring along with 9 others between 2017 and 2020. He has an aging department. He explained reserve officers and how he uses them. Chief Stone said that in 2015 there will be 4 officers possibly retiring. You are required to retire at age 65.

POLICE DISPATCH

Chief Stone and Chief Bushnell would like funds for an EMD - \$2500. Five full time dispatchers will qualify for this stipend. Cole explained the EMD (emergency medical dispatcher).

FIRE BUDGET

Chief Bushnell was present. He plans to do more work on equipment. He explained the various equipment and vehicles that need replacing. Some are because parts are no longer available. Heart monitors, life pacs, will need replacing. Parts will no longer be available after 5 years. Physio gave Cole an offer that is extended through March 31st, but will continue it 2 weeks. We are presently using a lifepac 12, and getting a lifepac 15.

Jim Lehan moved to recommend the purchase of two life pac 15's, and to authorize the Chief subject to town meeting approval, the sum of \$10,400 per year – less than \$11,000 per year. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Chief Bushnell discussed his budget. His major points were three new hires added to the Call-Firefighter ranks because the roster strength had dipped below twenty staff. The new hires yielded a \$30,696 increase. Sick coverage increased by \$8,414, ambulance operations increased by \$7,000 and Union issues resulted in \$12,000 in salary adjustments.

The Chief would like an account to put \$5,000 per year in that they can use for clothing for a firefighter.

ACTION ITEMS

Jim Lehan recused himself from this issue as a member of the Municipal Housing Trust. They have requested the Board waive the fees at 82 Main Street. Jim L. said this is building permit fees only, not all fees. We are talking \$1500 to \$2,000. This is the town project that was Habitat for Humanity.

Rob Garrity moved to waive the building permit fee for 82 Main Street. Jim T. seconded, and it was **so voted**.

The Board discussed a clothing allowance for Hilary. Jim T. said he would like to see sufficient funding to help with her budget.

Jim Lehan moved to approve the Norfolk Baseball Opening Day Parade on Saturday, April 21st at 12 noon at H. Olive Day School. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Rob Garrity moved to approve a run/walk for the Massachusetts Department of Corrections Health and Wellness Day on Tuesday, May 8, 2012 at 10 a.m. beginning at the Pond Street Recreation Facility. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Jim Lehan moved to allow the Council on Aging to serve wine at their Art Show on May 18, 2012 from 5 p.m to 8:30 p.m. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**. seconded, and it was **so voted**.

BUDGET

Jack did a brief summary of the departmental budgets with the Board.

He reviewed the KP budget.

TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Rob Garrity moved to reopen the warrant. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Rob Garrity moved to remove the Assessors article. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Rob Garrity moved to place an article on the warrant from the Board requesting one additional liquor license. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Jim Lehan moved to add the article by the Town Administrator re: RECC. Rob Garrity seconded, and

it was **so voted**.

Rob Garrity moved to place an article submitted by the Town Administrator re: flood plain. Jim Lehan seconded, and it was **so voted**.

Jim Lehan moved to close warrant. Rob Garrity seconded, and it was **so voted**.

The Board numbered the articles.

At 10:40 p.m., Jim Lehan moved to adjourn the meeting. Rob Garrity seconded and it was **so voted**.

This is a true and accurate report of the Selectmen's Meeting of April 3, 2012.

Robert J. Garrity, Clerk