

TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SPECIAL MEETING – DOG HEARING – JUNE 18, 2001

JUDGE WELSH HEARING ROOM

The following minutes are available on-line as a service and are not the official record due to changes in formatting for the Internet. The minutes may have attachments that are not included here in this format. The official, complete paper copy can be viewed during regular office hours, Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Office of the Town Clerk, 260 Commercial St. Provincetown, MA 02657.

Chairman, Betty Steele-Jeffers opened the meeting 6:00 PM noting the following attendees:

Board of Selectmen members: Elizabeth Steele-Jeffers, Cheryl Andrew, Mary-Jo Avellar, David Atkinson.

Other attendees: Keith Bergman – Town Manager, Mark Latour – Assistant Manager, Chief Robert Anthony, Dog Officer Ruth Ann Cowing.

Complainant: Mr. Decker Johnson Dogs Owner: Mr. Carl Tasha

Recorder: Vernon Porter - Secretary to Board of Selectmen

The following are meeting minutes, in brief.

Chairman Steele-Jeffers called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM noting all attendees and reads the notice of hearing into the record.

Mr. Decker Johnson and Mr. Carl Tasha were sworn in as witnesses by Chairman Betty Steele-Jeffers.

In question are three dogs owned by Mr. Tasha: Obadiah (mutt), Cotton (pit bull) and Lily (mutt). All three dogs were not licensed until at the time of the notice, they now are.

In addition to complaints on file Mr. Johnson said that the dogs have destroyed his garden several times and said that one day last week these dogs were loose but that it has not been as bad recently as previously. However, he is terrified of the dog Cotton (pit bull)

Mr. Tasha apologizes to Mr. Johnson and all the neighbors and to the Board for not better controlling his dogs. He has invested in 7' fenced cage in back of his home and plans on installing a special gate in the front of his property. Additionally he will contain Cotton on a chain leash or physically restrained when they leave the property.

The hearing was closed to the public at 6:45 PM

The Board deliberated in open session and made the following findings of facts:

I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to find as follows:

1. *Mr. Carl Tasha of 15 Howland Street is the owner of three dogs. Obadiah a mixed light body male, Cotton a female pit bull and Lily the daughter of Cotton and Obadiah.*

Motion by: Cheryl Andrews Seconded by: David Atkinson Yea 4 Nay 0

- 2) *Mr. Tasha admits that the dogs had been previously unlicensed and loose and they can chase people and scare them and he apologizes and admits that nobody should have to be afraid of his dogs.*

Motion by: Cheryl Andrews Seconded by: Mary-Jo Avellar Yea 4 Nay 0

- 3) *Mr. Decker Johnson says that one day last week these dogs were loose but it has not be as bad recently.*

Motion by: Cheryl Andrews Seconded by: Mary-Jo Avellar Yea 4 Nay 0

- 4) *The Police Department has received approximately ten call in the last three years about dogs on this*

property..

Motion by: Cheryl Andrews Seconded by: Mary-Jo Avellar Yea 4 Nay 0

5) *At least three tickets have been issued to Mr. Tasha. Not all of them have been paid and approximately \$85 is outstanding.*

Motion by: Cheryl Andrews Seconded by: Mary-Jo Avellar Yea 4 Nay 0

Accordingly, the Board of Selectmen voted to issue the following orders:

- 1) *That these dogs not be allowed to leave Mr. Tasha's property and if they are off the property they must be on a leash or physically restrained.*
- 2) *If the police department receives another similar complaint, the dog officer will impound the dog(s) and another hearing will be scheduled.*

Motion by: Cheryl Andrews Seconded by: Mary-Jo Avellar Yea 4 Nay 0

2. **SELECTMEN'S STATEMENTS**

Mary-Jo Avellar

Suggest that the Chairman make announcement during Board of Selectmen meetings that members of audience turn off cell phones and beepers.

David Atkinson

Surplus school bus – would it be good for transportation to skateboard park? (Keith will check out specifics.)

Cheryl Andrews

Portuguese Festival / Parade – check out Berta Walker's convertible – if not jeep is OK.

Betty Steele-Jeffers - Nothing at this time.

Motion to adjourn by Mary-Jo Avellar at 7:06 PM

Minutes transcribed by: Vernon Porter, Secretary June 20, 2001