



## TOWN OF SOUTHBRIDGE

### A JOINT GENERAL GOVERNMENT SUBCOMMITTEE / TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, January 27, 2022 at 7:00 PM  
VETERANS ROOM

#### Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call

<b>Subcommittee Members Present: (5)</b>	<b>Members of the Public Present:</b>
Chairwoman Jacquelyn Ryan, Town Councilor	Chairman John Daniel, Town Councilor
Michael Marketti, Town Councilor	Scott Lazo, Town Councilor
Gus Steeves, Town Councilor	Maureen Doyle, Citizen
Martena Shea, Citizen Member	Michael McCall, Town Manager
Denise Clemence, Citizen Member	Animal Control Officer Katelyn Spencer

3. Consider and accept General Government Subcommittee Minutes of December 29, 2021

There was no discussion on the minutes.

MOTION: Accept the General Government Subcommittee Minutes of December 29th, 2021

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Gus Steeves

SECONDED BY: Councilor Michael Marketti

MOTION PASSES: 2-0-3 with Councilor Gus Steeves, Citizen Members Martena Shea and Denise Clemence abstaining.

4. Discussion and make a recommendation to the Town Council on the Mullin's Rule Bylaw.

Town Manager McCall explained that the current proposed bylaw would acknowledge our acceptance of that section of Massachusetts General Law and strengthen some limitations like limiting the use of the rule no more than 3 times in a year and require audio or video recordings and not allow transcripts. The Town Manager also let us know that this did pass legal muster when reviewed by our Town Legal Counsel.

Councilor Gus Steeves brought up a couple of grammatical and wording issues and the Town Manager stated he would have those issues fixed before the matter is discussed before the whole Town Council.

Councilor Michael Marketti wondered if this rule should only be applied to the Planning Board as they are the only ones with a need for the measure and shouldn't apply to the Town Council in his opinion.

Citizen Member Denise Clemence stated that she was happy to see the Subcommittee's suggestions put into a bylaw and required form for when the Mullin's rule is applied. She also stressed that Chairpersons need to be on top of this and make sure all public hearings are recorded to meet this legal requirement.

MOTION: Recommend the Town Council adopt the Mullin's rule bylaw and send up for three readings at Town Council.

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Gus Steeves

SECONDED BY: Citizen Member Denise Clemence

MOTION PASSES 5-0 Unanimous of all Present

5. Discussion on amending Town Council Rules and Regulations.

**NO DISCUSSION: Was previously referred to the Town Council Chairman for Council of the Whole Discussion at 12.29.2021 General Government Meeting**

6. Discuss the adoption of M.G.L. Chapter 140 (LICENSES) Section 151A (ISSUANCE OF WARRANT TO OFFICERS; DUTIES; CONFINEMENT OF DOGS; ALLOWANCE FOR CARE; RECORDS) and entertain a motion to vote to recommend that Town Council confirm.

Town Manager Michael McCall explained that this is just a standard annual adoption of the Massachusetts General Law (MGL) and provides further legal protection for the Animal Control Officer in case there is a challenge on her taking or seizing the animal because they were not licensed or violated other Town Bylaws.

Councilor Gus Steeves wondered why it has to be adopted annually as the MGL does not mention that requirement to which the Town Manager explained that this is recommended just to show continued support for our Animal Control Officer.

Councilor Jacquelyn Ryan asked the Animal Control Officer if this would grant any new authority to her position and the Councilor wondered how our Animal Control Officer would handle the situation of her finding and unlicensed animal as she stated some in the community worried after the recent events why we might be doing this annual adoption now and would that mean she would just come seize their animal if she saw it with no license.

Animal Control Officer (ACO) Katelyn Spencer explained that this MGL acceptance doesn't grant her any new powers but instead just provided further protection of her rights to use those powers as needed. The ACO went on to state that she would take an education based approach

first and exhaust every other option to get compliance with licensing before seizing and impounding the animal.

Councilor Gus Steeves asked if there had been a stray dog issue and licensing issues in town.

ACO Spencer stated that she does see a problem with Licensing Dogs in town but that the Town Clerk would have more information on this than she would.

Citizen Member Denise Clemence supports the acceptance of the MGL and thinks this will help promote more compliance on getting the dogs licensed.

MOTION: Recommend that the Town Council adopt M.G.L. Chapter 140 (LICENSES) Section 151A (ISSUANCE OF WARRANT TO OFFICERS; DUTIES; CONFINEMENT OF DOGS; ALLOWANCE FOR CARE; RECORDS)

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Michael Marketti  
SECONDED BY: Citizen Member Denise Clemence  
MOTION PASSES 5-0, Unanimous of All Present

7. Discuss the adoption of M.G.L. Chapter 140 (LICENSES) Section 153 (FORM OF WARRANT TO OFFICERS) and entertain a motion to vote to recommend that Town Council confirm.

ACO Spencer explained that this is just the annual warrant that will need to be approved annually by the Town Council once the MGL is adopted.

MOTION: Recommend that the Town Council adopt M.G.L. Chapter 140 (LICENSES) Section 153 (FORM OF WARRANT TO OFFICERS)

MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Michael Marketti  
SECONDED BY: Citizen Member Denise Clemence  
MOTION PASSES 5-0, Unanimous of All Present

8. Adjourn

MOTION: Motion to Adjourn  
MOTION MADE BY: Councilor Gus Steeves.  
SECONDED BY: Councilor Michael Marketti  
MOTION PASSES 5-0, Unanimous of All Present

Meeting was adjourned at 7:52 PM

General Government Subcommittee Members: Councilor/Gen Gov Chair, J. Ryan, Councilors Mike Marketti, G. Steeves - Citizen Members: Denise Clemence, Martena Shea

c: M. McCall, Town Manager