



**Town of Berlin
Municipal Office Building
108 Shed Road**

**Berlin, VT. 05602
Regular Select Board Meetings
1st & 3rd Monday of Each Month**

Special Board Meeting

Monday, March 30, 2015

5:00 PM

Selectboard Members: Ture Nelson, Chair, Jeremy Hansen, Vice Chair, Roberta Haskin Secretary, Brad Towne and Pete Kelley.

APPROVED MINUTES

Selectboard member Kelley was absent. Meeting also attended by Dana Hadley, Town Administrator, Tim Davis, Highway Superintendent, David Sawyer and later joined by Tracy Perry, residents of Second Street.

5:00 p.m.

Chairman Nelson called the meeting to order.

Animal Control Ordinance

The Board started review of the Animal Control Ordinance. The Ordinance was last reviewed in 2011. Board members were given a copy of the ordinance and did a preliminary review. It will be addressed at a subsequent meeting(s).

Dog Bite Complaint

Resident David Sawyer was in to discuss with the Board an incident that involved a dog owned by his girlfriend, Tracy Perry that was involved in a fight with a neighbor's dog on March 23rd. Ms. Perry's daughter took the dog out for a walk at the same that a neighbor brought his dog out and the they got into a fight. The neighbor and Ms. Perry's daughter sustained injuries from dog bites. Mr. Sawyer did not know that the neighbor sustained injuries until the following evening. The incident was investigated by the animal control officer. Mr. Sawyer and Ms. Perry were asked to produce proof that the dog had been vaccinated for rabies. They were unable to verify that the dog was up to date for the rabies vaccination and as a result, the animal control officer requested that the dog be quarantined for 10 days at Barre Animal Hospital. Mr. Sawyer asked if the dog could be quarantined at their home as this would be a financial hardship in additional to several mitigating circumstances. The animal control officer made the decision not to allow them to quarantine the animal at their home. He spoke with Dr. Johnson of the state and they discussed how long that the rabies vaccine is effective. Mr. Sawyer said the dog immunization was done in 2012. He called the police chief and was referred to the health officer. The health officer told him that he would not override the decision of the animal control officer.

Mr. Sawyer was frustrated and feels that animal control officer and the health officer should have reached out to the state official and they refused to do so.

Ms. Perry could not produce a rabies certificate and was not sure where the vaccination took place. They checked with area towns and did not locate any proof that that dog had received the rabies vaccination in 2012. The Animal Control advised that the dog needed to be quarantined as it was not known for sure if the dog had received a rabies shot.

The Board advised that they could not help him in this situation. Mr. Sawyer said he understood that. He appreciated the Board's time as he wanted to talk with them about the incident. He left the meeting.

Moved by Hansen and seconded by Towne to enter into an executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (3)-Appointment or employment of an employee. No outcome of this meeting would be announced at this meeting.

Vote in the affirmative.

Public meeting ended at 5:47 p.m.

For the Select Board:

Dana I. Hadley, Town Administrator