

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, December 27, 2017, 6:00 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common

Present: Selectboard members Jim Barlow, Laurie Colgan and Chris Martin; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Constable James Arisman; Visitors Janet and Kevin Sing and Nancy Perry

At 6:00 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Chair Chris Martin

Changes or additions to the agenda: none

Dog Complaint: Chris updated the Board on the actions that the Town has taken so far to address the complaints from Janet Sing regarding a dog residing at the home of Jay and Lisa Copeland. The Board had an extensive discussion; they will follow up with a letter confirming what the dog owners need to do. The Board attempted to take up the next item on the agenda.

At approximately 6:30 Janet Sing came in with Kevin Sing and Nancy Perry to address the Board. She stated that the dog has never been vaccinated and she has a video of the dog attacking her dog. Chris explained that the Town received a message last week that the dog was at her house. Chris went up that day to speak with the Copelands. He found the dog walking down the road. He tried to pick the dog up but he was not able to get close to the dog. When he turned around and came back to the Copelands, Martin Dery was trying to get the dog to come back to the Copelands. Chris spoke with him and explained that the dog needed to be licensed. While Chris was speaking with Martin, Dog Officer Mia Roethlein showed up and spoke with him and told him the same thing. Thursday Jim Barlow went up to Maple Hill twice to check to see if the dog was out. He tried to go up on Friday but went off the road. Chris and James Arisman went up Friday and spoke with Jay and Lisa Copeland. Lisa explained that she slipped and fell on the ice and the dog got away. She tried to get him back but couldn't get him back. Janet stated that the dog was out two days in a row. She stated that she has evidence. Chris disputed whether a text message would hold up as evidence. She asked why the Town isn't addressing the issue of killing her goats because the dog has been at her house for 10 hours a day for two days in a row last week and has attacked her dogs. She stated that the dog is out every day because they don't have a fence and they leave it outside. She stated that she has posted about the dogs on social media several times when they have been at her house. She stated that the dog jumps her fence and goes through the electric fence and goes into her buildings. She showed a video that she says shows the dog biting her dog. Chris stated that the dogs could be playing. Laurie warned Janet that she is being disruptive and she needs to follow standards of behavior expected at a public meeting, and asked her to stop interrupting. Chris

went back to explaining that both he and Constable James Arisman have met with Martin Dery and the Copelands, and have written a letter to them giving them until January 12th to have the dog licensed and to keep the dog from running at large. The Board feels that the video is not long enough to clearly indicate that the dog was bitten, because dogs play, and there is no way to know if her dog's bite marks, if they exist, are from that incident or from playing with the dog or other dogs. Laurie stated that what the Board is able to do is require the dog owners to license their dog and provide a rabies certificate. The complaints of running at large will be investigated as they come up. The Board can not issue any fines at this time. Janet stated that the neighbors the Barberis are afraid of the dog. Chris stated that the Board has not received any complaints from anyone else. Janet asked the Board to go to the Copeland residence and take the dog. The Board explained that the Town can not go into someone's home to get the dog without a warrant from a judge. She asked why the Board believes that the dog owners will comply with the Town's request if there are no fines or ramifications. She feels that she is being harassed by the Town. At 6:50 Jim Barlow moved to take a 10-minute recess. Laurie seconded – all in favor. The Board came back to order at 7:00. Laurie moved that the Board conclude the discussion by sending a letter to the dog owners requiring them to license the dogs, and reminding them to keep their dog from running at large. Jim seconded – all in favor.

James Arisman, Nancy Perry, Janet and Kevin Sing left the meeting at this time.

Medicare: The Board received more information from Blue Cross regarding the Medicare rules. Based on information available to the Selectboard, provided by Attorney Stacy Barrows, Derek Obrey from BCBS, and information provided by Hickok and Boardman, the Selectboard has concluded that for purposes of the Medicare secondary payer rules, the Town has fewer than 20 employees. Laurie moved to continue to reimburse premiums for Medicare Part D and to pay for the supplemental policy and to reimburse premiums for Medicare Part B from the time the dependent became eligible, because had the Town had full understanding of the rules, the part B would have been reimbursed at that time. The amount to be reimbursed for 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 is \$5,108.40. Clarification will be added to the personnel policy to allow for reimbursement up to the amount that the Town would pay if the person were to remain on the Town's group health insurance plan.

Personnel: Jim expressed an interest in changing the schedule in the future to have raises take effect after the voters approve the budget, but he noted that raises in the past have been given to be effective January 1st. Chris moved to raise employee wages 2% effective January 1st, with the exception of Meg Eberhardt; her wage is raised to \$15.00/hour, recognizing that she is the appointed Town Assessor rather than one of 3 Listers. Laurie seconded – all in favor. The Board

discussed a request from a road crew member to accrue more than 40 hours of comp time; the policy currently says an employee may accrue a maximum of 40 hours. The Board decided to stick to the policy.

Budget Discussions: The Board discussed whether to purchase a new loader and a hydroseeder for ditching. They will ask the Road Foreman to attend the next meeting to discuss it.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and signed reports for General Expenses and Payroll.

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the December 27, 2017 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
