

Town of Proctor Selectboard Special Meeting – Vicious Dog Complaint Hearing
February 1, 2010
6:00 – 6:30 P.M.

Board Members Present

Rick Anderson, Chair
Susan Feenick
Lloyd Hughes

Employees Present

Steffanie Bourque, Town Administrator

Other Guests Present

Sheriff Benard, Rutland County Sheriff's Dept.
Marianna Boas
Max Boas
Kellie Bride
Nancy Erickson
Officer Florence, Animal Control Officer
George Smith

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. and began with the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

II. Statements from the Complainants

The letter previously submitted by Nancy Erickson, the Proctor Elementary School principal, was read aloud (see attached). Erickson noted that since the writing of the letter she has spoken with additional parents who have expressed concern about children crossing Church Street and walking along the side of the road without a sidewalk to avoid the dog at 23 Church Street. The safety risks this situation presents were noted.

Kellie Bride explained her and her children's experience and requested the Selectboard take some action to address the problem.

III. Review of Investigation Conducted by Animal Control Officer

Officer Florence submitted a written report of his investigation of the complaint (see attached). He discussed that report with the Selectboard. Sheriff Benard expanded on the written report and noted the evidence supports the claim that the dog is a menace to travel and the normal system of issuing tickets has not changed the dog owners' behavior.

IV. Statements from the Defendants

Marianna Boas was very apologetic for their actions. She offered proof of purchase for a chain link kennel that she had purchased that day to confine the dog while it is outside. She assured the Selectboard that she and her husband will make every effort to resolve this problem.

V. Statements from the Public

George Smith, a nearby neighbor, explained his experiences with the dog and requested the Selectboard take action to enforce the Town's leash law.

VI. Deliberative Session

Susan Feenick made the motion at 6:15 p.m. to enter deliberative session. The motion was seconded by Lloyd Hughes and unanimously approved. Lloyd Hughes made the motion at 6:25 p.m. to resume the public meeting.

VII. Statement of Findings/Issuance of Orders, if applicable

Susan Feenick made the motion to issue orders requiring the owners of the dog at 23 Church Street to keep their dog on a leash and/or confined to a kennel while outside - the dog must be under some form of physical restraint at all times as to not be a menace to travel. Both of the Boas' dogs must be registered

by 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 5, 2010. Violation of these orders will lead to subsequent action by the Selectboard, which may include, but not be limited to, impoundment, permanent removal from the property, or destruction. The motion was seconded by Lloyd Hughes and unanimously approved.

VIII. Adjourn

Lloyd Hughes made the motion at 6:30 p.m. to adjourn the February 1, 2010 special meeting of the Selectboard. The motion was seconded by Susan Feenick and unanimously approved.