

Wallingford Selectboard Meeting
Minutes
February 1, 2016

Chairman Nelson Tift called the Dog Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. at Wallingford Town Hall.

Selectboard Members Present: Nelson Tift, Bill Brooks, Gary Fredette, Rose Regula and Mark Tessier.

Others Present: Sandi Switzer, Paula Baker, John Costales, Jerry Tift and Gary Kupferer.

Selectboard Chair Nelson Tift read aloud an overview of the complaint filed by John Costales regarding Paula Baker and Jane Quigley's dog, Arlo. He then swore-in all witnesses planning to testify at the dog hearing.

Dog warden Jerry Tift provided a detailed account of his investigation into a dog bite incident involving complainant John Costales at the Baker/Quigley home on Irish Lane on December 15, 2015.

N. Tift confirmed the town received a copy of the dog warden's report, a written complaint filed by Mr. Costales, and a copy of the medical report from Convenient Medical Center.

Mr. Costales testified he was bitten on the leg on December 15, 2015 while in the Baker/Quigley home servicing the furnace. He said Ms. Baker provided him with instructions for greeting the dogs when he initially entered the home. Mr. Costales said he followed those instructions each time he entered the home. Mr. Costales said Ms. Baker informed him the dogs were "harmless." He said after returning from a trip to Rutland that day, he entered the home and greeted the dogs in the same manner. He said Arlo bit him on the leg without provocation. He said the skin on his leg was broken but there were no puncture wounds. He said Ms. Baker expressed concern about the bite and then expressed concern about reporting the incident to the town.

Mr. Costales testified he reported the incident to his employer at Keyser Energy. He said his employer instructed him to seek medical treatment. He said he sought medical treatment at Convenient Medical Center.

Ms. Baker responded that she agreed with everything Mr. Costales had said. She said she was surprised as anyone that the incident had occurred. Ms. Baker said Mr. Costales was a large man and had been carrying something in his hands as he entered the home and she surmised that Arlo was being protective. She said she does not see Arlo as a vicious dog.

Town attorney Gary Kupferer questioned who owned the dog. Ms. Baker responded she owned Arlo along with Jane Quigley. Mr. Kupferer referred to a 2011 incident in which Arlo bit two people. He asked if she was aware she agreed at the time to have the animal put down if another incident occurred. Ms. Baker said she did not remember making that agreement. Ms. Baker said Arlo was part of the family and she wanted the town to give the dog another chance with additional restraints.

The hearing adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to enter deliberative session at 6:29 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

R. Regula made a motion that was seconded by G. Fredette to leave deliberative session at 6:45 p.m. Motion carried (5-0).

N. Tift made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to issue an Order to Paula Baker and Jane Quigley requiring the dog, Arlo, be muzzled at all times when outside the home, off the premises or inside the Irish Lane residence when anyone other than the dog's owners are in the home. The order included a requirement for signs to be installed at each entrance to the home warning visitors of a vicious dog inside and a sign erected outside the home in a prominent location warning pedestrians and passersby of a vicious dog on the premises. The Order included a seven day deadline to muzzle the dog and a fourteen day deadline to install signage. Motion carried (5-0).

N. Tift called the regular Selectboard meeting to order at 6:49 p.m. at Wallingford Town Hall.

Selectboard Members Present: Nelson Tift, Bill Brooks, Gary Fredette, Rose Regula and Mark Tessier.

Others present: Sandi Switzer, Marc Pramuk and Ken Welch.

Agenda Amendments. None.

Minutes. M. Tessier made a motion that was seconded by R. Regula to approve the Minutes of the January 18, 2016 meeting. Motion carried (5-0).

Selectboard Orders. G. Fredette made a motion that was seconded by M. Tessier to approve pay orders totaling \$20,124.63 after \$24 was added for Mountain Glass, \$147.85 was added for Staples and \$3,006.63 was added for Pete's Tires. Motion carried (5-0). .

Road Commissioner Report. Road Commissioner Phil Baker was not present. The board reviewed road foreman Steve Lanfear's list of dates workplace safety corrections were completed at the town garage following Fire Chief Michael Hughes' recommendations.

S. Switzer said the road foreman was aware he must still remove a clip on the diesel fuel tank nozzle as recommended by the fire chief.

Public Comments. Marc Pramuk circulated photographs of tree damage caused by beavers along Waldo Lane. He said one tree impacted by beavers could potentially fall onto a water line resulting in a disruption of service.

G. Fredette suggested Mr. Pramuk notify the Fire District 1 about the potential damage to the water line. The board agreed the town would contact state officials and request relocation of the beavers.

Heat Pumps at Town Hall. Ken Welch informed the board he had visited Town Hall with Green Mountain Power's Dan Mackey to explore options for installing heat pumps for heating and cooling the building.

Mr. Welch provided an overview of how the system would work using compressors mounted on the exterior of the building and evaporators and piping inside. He estimated it would cost \$25,000 for three units purchased and installed for the main floor.

He said the system makes sense when oil prices are higher than \$1.80 per gallon. He noted historic preservation officials may have concerns regarding any alterations to the building. He said the town should explore it further in the future as oil prices increase.

Mr. Welch informed the board the Energy Committee was nearing completion on the energy portion of the Town Plan. He said the information would be presented to the board within the next few months.

Workplace Safety. The board discussed various options for training and written programs for workplace safety. There was also a discussion regarding the formation of a Workplace Safety Committee to meet periodically throughout the year.

The board agreed to explore available safety videos for training and invite Wallingford Fire Chief Michael Hughes to join M. Tessier and S. Switzer on a safety committee.

Selectboard Concerns. M. Tessier asked whether the town had received a response from the Dennis Smith estate regarding junk complaints on Florence Avenue and Church Street. S. Switzer said she had not received a response from the November 23, 2015 letter sent to the estate.

Other Business/Announcements. The board briefly discussed Henry Burnham's letter regarding complaints about Casey Burnham's barking dog. No action was taken.

The board by consensus agreed to issue a Town Hall front door key to Fire Chief Michael Hughes.

The board took no action in response to a Vermont Emergency Management email offering to meet with communities regarding emergency alert notifications.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Date Approved: 02/15/16

Sandi Switzer, Town Administrator