

1 **SELECTBOARD MEETING**

2 May 3, 2023

3 Attending the meeting; Merrily Lovell, Maggie Gordon, Paul Lamberson, Dennis Place, Joy Dubin
4 Grossman, Nick Baker, Pamela Robichaud, Jon Robichaud, Aaron Miller.

5 Board member absent; Mike Loner.

6 Attending remotely; Todd Odit, Margaret McNurlan

7 Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. via zoom.

8 Agenda Additions and Deletions

9 none

10 Public Comment

11 none

12 Approve Minutes of 4/19

13 Tabled until the next meeting due to lack of quorum for vote.

14 Selectboard Forum

15 No comments from Board members.

16 Update on "Charger" Dog Bite Complaint and Consider Whether Additional Orders are Warranted

17 Merrily noted Luke had Charger evaluated at Cervantes Dog Training. Cervantes does not provide
18 written evaluations of dogs. Luke and Taylor plan to follow through with training and install fencing this
19 weekend.

20 Merrily said there have been complaints noting Charger was seen in the yard without a muzzle on.

21 Two certified letters with requirements regarding the problem were sent to the owners but were
22 returned so Joy copied the letters and sent via email.

23 Maggie said she believes they and their kids love their dog. She wants to send a message to make it
24 clear there will be consequences beyond fines if they do not comply with the requirements.

25 Paul said reports from neighbors saying the dog was not muzzled bothers him. The Town has been very
26 lenient toward the dog owner and he would like to put some enforcement in the muzzle requirement.

27 Dennis asked if you can do that on private property. Joy noted they agreed to that requirement.

28 Todd said the Board could send notice of alleged violations. Maggie said to include if another bite
29 incident occurs the dog would be impounded and destroyed.

30 Merrily moved to send another letter with the requirements discussed and agreed on at the meeting.
31 Seconded by Paul.

Pamela Robichaud, who has been bitten by the dog, said the dog being muzzled when inside the fence is important. The second time she was bitten the dog was on a leash without a muzzle. Regarding proof the dog was not muzzled is difficult. She does not know how to do that in a way that feels safe. They have evidence on social media that is not being considered.

Jon Robichaud said he came to Town Hall and stated there was photographic evidence the dog was unmuzzled with dated photo stamps but was informed the photos might not be credible as social media does not always portray the time at which it is presented. He appreciates the concern for the dog and the family, but there are 12 neighbors who are freaked out. He suggests having the owners erect “beware of dog” signs immediately to warn others walking or biking on the road.

Aaron Miller said he is frustrated that the situation is not being taken seriously by the dog owners. The order the Board put in place to make the neighborhood a safer place is not being followed through. He walked on the road and Charger was out in front barking at people going by. Taylor said the dog would be kept behind the house. He has never seen the dog muzzled and is not kept in the back. He also asked for the animal control officer to assess the fence in regards to the ability to contain the dog.

Margaret McNurlan said no one will evaluate a dog and say it is completely safe, particularly a dog that has bitten three people. This dog came out of the front door of the house, how will a fence in back prevent that.

Joy will draft a letter with a list of actions and consequences such as these discussed at the meeting. Dog must be muzzled and leashed when outside or will be impounded. If there is another bite incident the dog will be impounded and destroyed. Fence will be constructed and inspected by an animal control officer. Install “beware of dog” signs. If there is another observation of the dog outside unmuzzled it will be impounded.

Motion to send the letter voted and approved with 4 yes votes.

Maggie would like to further discuss the dog ordinance regulations at another meeting.

Discuss Next Steps for Town Hall and Fire Station

Todd said due to the unexpected significant increase in the wastewater treatment facility project he suggests to pause on the Town Hall and Fire Station projects until we have a clearer picture on what the Town financial obligations on the treatment facility will be. That could significantly impact the Town’s borrowing capacity. While both are needs the ww is a State mandated project.

For the Town Hall Todd feels it would be good to check back with the engineers if there is a possible way of just doing the strapping of the walls which would allow use of the main hall and what that cost would be.

Nick agreed with Todd that pausing the Fire Station proposal is the responsible thing to do. He added there are some repairs that need to be done to sustain the building and he hopes to have quotes ready when reviewing budgets for FY 25.

Town Manager Report

- Moving forward with some of the Richmond Rd paving project

- 69 • Richmond Police contract is on hold. Hinesburg provided one day of service and a grievance was
70 filed by a Richmond officer
- 71 • Todd had a discussion with Aldrich & Elliott about the wastewater project. They will be on the
72 next Board agenda with a recommendation on the bids
- 73 • CGR is scheduled to come back to visit on 6/14 through 6/16 for the Public Safety Plan
- 74 • Working on updates to the personnel policy
- 75 • A complaint had been lodged with ACT 250 regarding blocking off the police parking lot to Rt
76 116. Todd said it appears we are not in violation and he is working with ACT 250 to co-ordinate
77 amending that condition and if any approval will be needed for the Town Common.

78 Paul said he hopes we can keep looking for any options for best improvement in the future when good
79 PFOA treatment is standardized. Todd said he will have that conversation with Aldrich & Elliot.

80

81 Approve Warrants and Payroll

82 Merrily moved to approve the warrants signed by herself and Maggie, including payroll, as submitted by
83 the Town Treasurer. Seconded by Maggie and approved with 4 yes votes.

84 Adjourn

85 Maggie moved to adjourn at 7:40 p.m. Seconded by Merrily and approved with 4 yes votes.

86 Respectfully submitted,

87 Valerie Spadaccini, clerk of the Board