

SELECTBOARD MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 8, 2015

Meeting opened at 6:00pm.

Present: Alan Vint, Chair; David DiNicola
Duane Pease, Town Administrator (TA); Animal Control Officer, Terry Andrews; Police Officer, Bob Hoynoski

Board of Health minutes approved on motion by Alan, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0.

Selectboard minutes approved on motion by Alan, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0.

Roger Pagery and Catherine Grey and Don Munger came to the Board with a complaint about a neighbor's dogs barking at various hours during the day and night. The complaint was about the Burmer's dogs. Pagery and Grey live across the road from the Burmer's at 139 Arthur Pease Road and Munger lives at 134. Munger said the dogs would wake him up and he has a difficult time getting back to sleep due to health issues. Grey said they have to sleep with their windows closed and can't enjoy sitting outside due to the constant barking. There was extended, and sometimes heated, discussion regarding the dogs and the barking. Burner accused their neighbors of blowing an air horn which further excites his dogs. Burner said he doesn't like to hear his dogs bark either and it usually is only for a short time. He has German Shepherds and Bichon Frise and they will bark when some other animal is near. He also belongs to a club and will train dogs on weekends but these dogs do not stay with him. He does not charge any fee for this training. Grey said she said they need to figure out a way to get along. Both Alan and Dave own German Shepherds and understood how and why the dogs would bark.

Animal Control Officer Terry Andrews was also at the meeting, she stated she has been to the Burmer house on one occasion and did not notice any excessive barking. She had also stopped a couple of times prior to reaching the house to listen for the dogs barking but did not hear any barking. Terry kept a log of the complaints she had received and advised them it does no good to call or email her after the fact. She needs to be informed at the time of the barking so she can investigate.

It was agreed that the Board members, police and ACO would make unscheduled drive bys and listen for barking dogs. Also, the ACO would be called when the barking occurs and if she can not go out, the police would be notified. Alan said if it was later in the evening, to call him and he would respond.

TA gave an update on the MassWorks grant application, the grant was written by Bernie Kubiak and Gill Engineering with great help from Highway Superintendent, Skip Savery and some assistance from the TA.

Also discussed were apparent speeders on some of the gravel roads in town, specifically on Arthur Pease Road. Bob said while the police are monitoring the dog barking situation, they could also set up radar to deter speeding. The speed limit on unposted roads is 35mph.

The TA also contacted EverSource to check on the status of placing a new light pole so the Town Hall service can be brought in underground and then update the service. TA forwarded the contact information to the Town Electrician.

Last item discussed was the personnel policy and how various towns handled accrued vacation and sick days. TA advised he had contacted similar towns and found there were no policies that were in agreement on both, some allowed only 3 sick days a year while others were at 12. Some allowed vacation to accrue unlimited, while others capped it 2 or 4 weeks. This will be further discussed at a future meeting.

Alan motioned to adjourned, Dave 2nd; vote 2-0 and meeting adjourned at 7:52pm

Minutes respectively submitted by:

Duane Pease

Town Administrator

Minutes accepted with/without changes by:

Alan Vint, Chair

David DiNicola