

Board of Selectman
March 5, 2012

THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY BOARD OF SELECTMEN

The Board of Selectmen held a regular meeting Monday, March 5, 2012 at the C.H. Booth Library, 25 Main Street, Newtown. First Selectman Llodra called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

PRESENT: First Selectman Llodra, Selectman William F.L. Rodgers, Selectman James Gaston, Sr.

ALSO PRESENT: 8 members of the public

VOTER PARTICIPATION: **Virginia Jess of Canine Advocates of Newtown, Inc.** said there is confusion between an obedience trainer and a behaviorist. A trainer always uses the same methods on all dogs. A behaviorist treats specific behaviors. The two are used interchangeable. There are many people who call themselves trainers but they are not behaviorists. Selectman Llodra stated that if they are too narrow, it will limit their choices. This is policy which leads to practice that is consistent with the policy. Selectman Rodgers asked if there are animal behaviorists listed in the yellow pages, and how many are there in the Danbury area. Ms. Jess did not know the answer to that question. Mr. Rodgers articulated that he understands that a behaviorist would be preferred over a trainer but we may not be able to find a behaviorist and a trainer could be qualified. The goal is to have the policy acted on by the end of March.

Robin Fennimore, 17 Pocono Road stated that she thinks the town is looking for a person that is qualified and competent. It may be just as useful to make some basic criteria as to what is needed. She also expressed concern that the parties who decide on a dogs fate, not rely only to the police department, but also the selectman.

ACCEPTANCE OF THE MINUTES: Selectman Rodgers moved the acceptance of the minutes of 2/21/12.
Selectman Gaston seconded. All in favor.

COMMUNICATIONS: Selectman Llodra explained that there is a letter from Bill Halstead as well as a letter from Dr. Evans and her response. There was correspondence back and forth between the Selectman Llodra and Lila Dean. Lila Dean believes that the work they are doing will be part of the POCD.

FINANCE DIRECTOR REPORT: none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action:

- 1. Implementation Plan – Plan of Conservation and Development:** item to be carried.
- 2. Tick Borne Disease Action Committee – next steps:** Selectman Llodra had a follow up conversation with the commissioner of DEEP. Mr. Kilpatrick of DEEP will be at the Selectman’s meeting on May 21st to discuss the methodology. However, it was made clear that it would be information only and it is the towns decision on how they want to proceed. It will not be opened up for dialog between Mr. Kilpatrick of DEEP and *the audience*.
- 3. Policy & Procedure: Impounded Animal:** This was addressed in Voter comment. Draft of policy is Attachment A.
- 4. Hook & Ladder Update:** Negotiations continue. The next step is to return to the selectman with a request.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion and possible action:

- 1. Road Work Acceptance, Road and Drainage Work Agreement, Sugar Loaf Road, “Dracemore Ridge” Subdivision:** At the last meeting, a Road was accepted but needs to be corrected. Selectman Rodgers motioned to accept the Dracemore Ridge subdivision and inform the developer, Mr. Porco. Selectman Gaston seconded, all in favor.

- 2. Tax Refunds: NONE**

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3. Appointments/Reappointments: None

VOTER COMMENTS: NONE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: there is an open position for the Commission on aging. It was in the Newtown Bee on March 2nd. March 30th is the deadline.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business the Board of Selectmen adjourned their regular meeting at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Arlene Miles, Clerk Pro Tem

Attachment A – Draft of Welfare Policy for Impounded Animals