

Selectboard Member's present: Chair Brian Fox, Joel Bouvier, Sharon Compagna, John "Peeker" Heffernan and Michelle Perlee. Also present was Town Administrator Therese Kirby, Town Clerk Jen Myers, Mary Arbuckle filming for NEAT TV, Jim Quaglino, Josh Otey, Val Hanson, Ed Hanson, Joan Derry, Walter Gustafson, John Gustafson, Eric Forand, Postmaster Bill Vincent, Robin Hewitt, Michael Brown, Debbie Brown, Jason Vincent, Patrick Reen, Kristina Reen, Diane Cushman and Police Chief Kevin Gibbs

1. At 7:02 pm Brian Fox called the meeting to order.

2. Brian Fox opened the public hearing regarding the dog bite incident that occurred on August 17, 2015. He said they will take testimony regarding the incident and the dog, and then the Board will make a ruling in deliberative session. Walter Gustafson apologized for the recent actions of his dog. He stated there were two instances that occurred when other dogs had come to the fence on their property and upset his dog. He said his dog has always been agitated by mail men and women. Joan Derry said there was a dog class that Caroline Engvall used to teach at the studio behind her home and they never had any problems with those dogs. Joan said there were also children's classes that took place in the studio and they never had any problems with the dog. They also had children's classes there and there were never any issues. She stated they replaced the fence and moved it back from the road and the property line to the west. Walter stated the mail man potentially could have triggered this because of snapping fingers and whistling and throwing treats into the yard. Therese Kirby asked about the new fence. Joan said it is 4 feet high and is a picket fence with a small space between the ground and the pickets. Brian asked when they got the dog. Walter said when it was about 1 year old. Brian asked if he was a rescue dog. Walter said he knew the previous owner and they weren't abusive. Joan also stated when the dog moved to Bristol it did go to a training class with Caroline Engvall. Brian asked how old the dog was currently. Joan said 6 years old. Brian asked about the situation with the Reen's dog, as he is concerned their dog did not let go of the Reen's dog. Joel asked if there were any attacks that occurred with the first owner. Walter said he wasn't aware of any. Joel asked why they didn't keep the dog. Walter said they had too many dogs and needed to get rid of this one. Val Hanson has always been afraid of this dog when she lived on Fitch Avenue. She approached a dog trainer and asked how to defend herself in a situation if the dog got out. Val said when the dog is out it growls and runs the along the fence line which alters peoples routes for walking. She was called to the Reen's immediately after their dog was attacked, and Joan told Val she never saw the dog act like that and said they had no control of this animal at the time. Val is worried this could be a child. Patrick Reen agreed his dog was off the leash and went to the neighbor Jason Vincent's. He walked it home and Nino (Gustafson's dog) got his face through the fence and grabbed his dog by the face and wouldn't let go. He was there for four minutes and four adults couldn't get Nino to release from his dog. He said his children are afraid to ride their bike along the street. Kristina Reen said teachers are afraid and feel threatened getting in their vehicles when they are leaving school if they are parked near the dog, and there is a chain link fence barrier between the dog and the school parking lot. Joel asked Jason Vincent if he had control of Fenway (Reen's dog). Jason said he was holding him by the collar, before he trotted off ahead of him. Eric Forand asked if all of the conditions placed on the owners by the Police Chief had been met since the incident. Joan said yes, they had been out with the dog on the leash for the whole week. Eric said he didn't feel Fitch Avenue was a good place for this dog, as this dog has always seemed aggressive and charged at the fence in a non-friendly way. Eric hasn't felt comfortable. Post Master Bill Vincent said they haven't had a lot of dog incidents, but this was very disturbing. When a dog comes unprovoked and attacks someone there isn't a lot carriers can do. He personally has had issues with this dog, he

refused to deliver mail and instructs his carriers not to deliver mail if the front door is open or the dog is in the yard. Even when the doors are closed, the dog follows them window to window and jumps at the window. If the dog continues to be aggressive and is threatening they will stop delivering mail to all the surrounding areas including Fitch Avenue and Mountain Street. Walter said he is willing to remove this dog from the neighborhood if residents are feeling threatened. Joan was willing to get a post office box. Ed Hanson is concerned because Mike Brown is over six feet tall and what if that was a child. Patrick Reen said there isn't any securing of the property that would make children feel comfortable. Sharon Compagna asked if the dog is currently registered. Joan said yes. She asked if the dog was registered before the incidents. Joan said no. Sharon asked where Walter was living. Walter said Burlington, but would move home to help. Mike Brown said he used to carry treats, but doesn't anymore. He doesn't whistle all the time, but uses that tool sometimes to find where dogs are in the yard. He said the dog would run back and forth along the fence. On the day of the attack, he left Bill James' lawn, identified where the dog was, and continued his route. He looked back in time to see the dog jump the fence. The dog bit his arm and he flung the dog off his arm before the dog could get a good grip. He did have a stare down in the middle of the road with the dog before the dog decided to return home. Michelle asked if the dog could live with Walter in Burlington, he said no. Joel is concerned with kids walking to school and the minimal control the owners have of the dog. Peeker clarified this problem will be dealt with in this community; they won't allow the dog to be moved to another community knowing the problems the dog has had. The Police Chief Kevin Gibbs will issue the Board decision to them at 8:30 tomorrow morning. Brian closed the dog bite hearing.

3. The Board discussed the vote to join Addison County Solid Waste Management District ACSWMD) tomorrow August 25, 2015 from 9 am until 7pm. Therese said ACSWMD will not charge Bristol to join because they want Bristol to become a member. Therese said R&L now does the drop off near where the scale shed was, and residents may bring their trash and recycling there. She explained the cost of household hazardous waste to Bristol residents had almost tripled in the last couple of years. Barb Brown asked about the horses taking her trash and if they could still do this. The Board said they would still be used because they are a private hauler and a member of the ACSWMD. Barb asked about the shortfall between what the Town needed to close and the funds we currently have. Therese explained the Shumlin Administration agreed to fund up to \$180,000 to cover the difference between the funds the Town has and the final cost to close the Landfill, as long as the Legislature approves it.

4. Public Forum: Barb Brown asked about fluoride being added to the water. She said when she first moved to Town she knows there was a discussion about it, but is unsure if it ever happened and if it did, when it was removed. Therese was unsure about this, but would ask Peter Ryan (former Trustee). Sharon Compagna said the school does offer free fluoride to all kids once per week.

5. The Board discussed the draft policy for frozen water lines. The Board discussed the updates made from the previous discussion. Joel asked about frozen curb stops. Therese said that would be our responsibility to fix/thaw because the Town owns them. Joel Bouvier moved to accept the policy for frozen water lines as printed. Sharon Compagna seconded, so voted.

6. The Board discussed the options to get power to the Stoney Hill Property on West Street. Therese said they did get prices for three scenarios. The Fire Chief contacted Therese to say he would like to see it all underground because downed lines near an emergency building are dangerous. The Board discussed the pricing for the different options. Peeker explained the three options, the first was everything above ground (upgrade existing pole and install two more), the second option was to upgrade the pole and run it above the property line but run the power from the pole to the fire station

underground, the third is to run everything underground. Peeker Heffernan moved to have aerial power brought to the property line at a cost of \$10,032.71. Sharon Compagna seconded, so voted.

7. The Board signed an Accounts Payable Warrant for \$78,190.65

8. Sharon Compagna moved to approve the minutes of August 10, 2015. Peeker Heffernan seconded, so voted.

9. Selectboard Roundtable: Joel asked about the report for 64 seconds. Therese said they were trying to pin point some leaks on West Street and believe there is a leak near Martin's Hardware. Peeker suggested closing the valve to Liberty and Munsill and listening to see if they could hear the leak. Therese forwarded the report to Green Mountain Engineering and will ask Peter Bouvier and Lance to dig the area on West Street to repair the leak. Joel asked about homeowners who had galvanized service lines and suggesting they get those replaced. Therese said it was found that not many homeowners had significant leaks with galvanized lines. Joel asked about any hydrants replaced that were old. Therese will ask Lance, who said they will flush hydrants in October; in answer to Joel's question from last week. Michelle asked about the alley way. Therese said yes she was contacted, and she mailed Joe Fallon a copy of the survey he requested and expects to hear back from them soon. Brian asked about getting the crack in the sidewalk fixed as part of the intersection project. Therese said they found another one and they haven't said when they are going to fix either of them. Joel asked to move the trash can closer to the intersection to prevent cars from driving around those turning left onto North Street. Kevin Gibbs gave three suggestion, they could put arrows along the fog line, extend the fog line further down West Street, or place removable bollards at each intersection of the crosswalk. The Board agreed to extend the fog line down West Street. Therese asked the State if Bristol could have an advanced green, they said no, because we do not have a dedicated left turn lane. Kevin asked if the lights would also be able to blink yellow if needed. Therese was unsure but said Peter Bouvier asked the electrician to install a transfer switch, so if the power went out, we can use a generator to run the traffic light.

10. Town Administrator's Report: Addison County Regional Planning is going to do the traffic counting for us that needs to be done in order to lower our speed limit. Joel asked if there is a cost for it. Therese said no. Therese asked about the pre-buy for propane from Jackman's. The Board agreed to pre-buy propane. Therese gave the Board an agreement between Vermont Gas and the Town of New Haven. Therese was asked by Chico Martin if the Town was going to enter into an agreement with them. They will discuss this at the September 7, 2015 Selectboard meeting.

At 8:47pm Michelle Perlee moved to go into deliberative session. Sharon Compagna seconded, so voted.

At 9:10 pm, Peeker Heffernan moved to adjourn deliberative session. Joel Bouvier seconded, so voted. At 9:11 pm, Michelle Perlee moved to go into executive session to discuss the appointment, employment or evaluation of a public officer or employee per 1 V.S.A. § 313 (a) (3). Sharon Compagna seconded. So voted. The Board met in executive session until 10:30 pm. Once in open session, the Selectboard made the following motions:

Peeker Heffernan moved to allow anyone injured on the job to accrue leave time based on the personnel policy. Joel Bouvier seconded. So voted.

Sharon Compagna moved to hire Matthew Senecal at a rate of \$12 per hour to be a substitute staff member for the Hub; salary to be paid via the United Way grant. Peeker Heffernan seconded. So voted.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Myers  
Town Clerk