

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Animal Control Minutes
Thursday, June 23, 2022

Members present; Sean Sargeant, Dr. Luther Brown, Peg Flory, Carrie Savage, and Michael Talbott. Also present, ACO Jones (Complainant), Brett Woodard, Mary Loseby, Chief Kilcullen, Commander Sheldon, Attorney Bloomer and City Clerk Heck.

Chair Sargeant called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM. Chair Sargeant first order of business was to hear from Attorney Bloomer on the process of this continued hearing as Brett Woodard was not present at the previous hearing.

A motion was made and seconded (Sargeant, Flory) to enter executive session. **Motion passed.**

At 5:42 PM a motion was made and seconded (Sargeant, Talbott) to come out of executive session. **Motion passed.**

Chair Sargeant noted the executive session was to provide guidance and best practice moving forward with the hearing. Chair Sargeant spoke to Mr. Woodard and stated he could review all evidence and the hearing will continue. If Mr. Woodard was not willing to proceed, then the meeting would end and be rescheduled. Mr. Woodard was good with reviewing the evidence and continuing with the hearing. The Board allowed Mr. Woodard to review all documents presented to date and asked Alderwoman Savage to leave as she was not present at the first hearing on June 16, 2022.

Chair Sargeant noted the Board came back to order at 5:49 PM and re-entered all evidence back into the hearing. Chair Sargeant speaking about ex-parte communication or conflicts of interest, seeing none, Chair Sargeant asked City Clerk Heck to swear in anyone giving testimony. Clerk Heck swore in Brett Woodard and Mary Loseby.

The Board then heard from Mary Loseby, who stated that her cat Simon was viciously attacked by two dogs owned by Brett Woodard. The Committee heard verbal and received written evidence to this attack. Ms. Loseby left after giving evidence. Mr. Woodard apologized for not being at the first hearing, but stated he was not aware of the hearing. Mr. Woodard responded to the claim by Mary Loseby, noting at first he thought it was his dogs, but found out later that a woman had found his dogs and they were with her at the time of the attack. Mr. Woodard noted Ms. Loseby was taking him to small claims court and was appealing those charges.

Mr. Woodard then spoke to the charges at present. Mr. Woodard noted that his brother left the gate open and his American Akitas got loose and went next door and bite a dog named Louie. Mr. Woodard spoke about his three (3) dogs and their socialization with people/children and their back ground. Mr. Woodard noted that the neighbor's dog Louie was digging at Mr. Woodard's fence, trying to get at his dogs. Mr. Woodard described/drew a map of his property and fenced in back yard. Mr. Woodard noted how the fence and gate latch have been reinforced. There was brief Q & A with Mr. Woodard and the Board.

At 6:35 PM Chair Sargeant closed the hearing and the Board moved into deliberative session.

Respectfully submitted,

Henry A. Heck
Rutland City Clerk
Clerk of the Board of Animal Control