

CITY OF RUTLAND, VERMONT
Board of Animal Control Minutes
Friday, July 22, 2016

Members present; Sean Sargeant, William Notte and Dr. Luther Brown. Also present, Leon Wood, Kati McPhee, Attorney Romeo, ACO Jones, Sargeant Sheldon and City Clerk Heck.

At 5:20 PM Chair Sargeant called the meeting to order and introduced all members and participants present. Chair Sargeant reviewed the outline and procedures used during the hearing

Clerk Heck swore in everyone giving testimony or evidence.

Chair Sargeant noted that the Board was asked to hear a vicious dog complaint from Mr. Leon Wood who was bitten on July 4, 2016.

Mr. Wood presented his evidence (Complaint form and sworn testimony) and details of the attack. Mr. Wood showed signs of heavy bruising and scars from the attack. He stated that he is quite shaken from the incident and has been through hell since the attack. There have been various trips to the hospital and medication for infection and pain. Mr. Wood explained the incident and how the dog is on the property he cares for even though it is leashed. There were several questions from Chair Sargeant and Board President Notte. This ended Mr. Woods's testimony.

Chair Sargeant asked Kati McPhee, the dog's owner if she would like to respond to the complaint. Ms. McPhee noted the lead (leash) was moved and that her dog is not vicious. Ms. McPhee gave her testimony of the incident. Board members asked several question of Ms. McPhee.

ACO Jones then spoke on the incident and prior incidents with the dog. Those incidents ranged from a barking complaint, abuse complaint, to a bite complaint. ACO questioned why the dog turned on Mr. Wood. There were several questions from the Board of ACO Jones.

Ms. McPhee stated the neighbor who owns the home never spoke to her or her landlord (father) about issues with the dog or toys being on the property.

Mr. Wood then gave his final testimony and again stated the dog is vicious and he has always had issues when he mowed that lawn.

Chair Sargeant asked if there was any other testimony from anyone. Seeing none, Attorney Romeo asked about evidence entered into the record. Chair Sargeant noted the three pages from Mr. Wood and photos from ACO Jones. There was a written statement and licensing records entered by Ms. McPhee. ACO Jones also presented a copy of medical records per the Boards' request.

At 5:40 PM a motion to move into deliberative session was made and seconded (Sean, Notte). **Motion passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

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