

Dog Attack on Bean Road

Transcript

<https://otter.ai/u/NHolqpOGwdrp-8xB9WHpL8gdFS4?view=transcript>

A special meeting was called to address a dog attack incident on Bean Road, Plainfield. A resident was bitten by an unregistered, possibly aggressive dog, incurring \$1,400 in medical costs. The dog's owner, Devin Lynch, was identified. The board discussed impounding the dog, noting the dog's history of aggression and the need for rabies testing. They also discussed the legality of seizing the dog and the process for issuing municipal violations. Additionally, the board addressed a separate issue involving a resident violating an ordinance by staying in an RV for over 180 days, with a judge's ruling requiring the resident to leave within 30 days.

Action Items

- Obtain a copy of the judge's ruling regarding the resident living in the RV on 79 Bean Road and clarify the details of the order.
- Document any further instances of the resident at 79 Bean Road staying overnight in the RV, including taking dated photographs as evidence.
- Call the animal control officer and constable to impound the dog at 79 Bean Road for being in violation of the town's licensing ordinance.
- Follow up with the town attorney to ensure all violations related to the property at 79 Bean Road are addressed, including the unauthorized connection to the septic system.

Outline

Dog Attack Incident Overview

- Karl Bissex calls the meeting to order, mentioning a resident was bitten by a dog and the need to review the situation.
- Karl Bissex introduces the issue of a dog biting a pedestrian on Bean Road, requiring medical attention.
- Karl Bissex seeks input from Christopher on the situation, who mentions a municipal dog control manual.

Details of the Dog Incident

- The dog was unregistered and possibly aggressive, with a history of biting.

- Bram Towbin adds that the dog cornered a neighbor in her garage and pinned another neighbor multiple times.
- Karl Bissex states the victim spent \$1,400 on medical treatment and questions the owner's liability.
- Discussion of impounding the animal and testing for rabies, but notes financial constraints and the victim's medical bills.

Legal and Enforcement Options

- Karl Bissex suggests the victim could use small claims court to recover costs.
- Bram Towbin mentions the animal control officer, Peter, who couldn't attend the meeting.
- Capt. Meyer asks about the dog's ownership and the possibility of impounding the animal.
- Constable Keast explains the process of impounding and the potential outcomes, including destruction if the dog isn't claimed.

Discussion on Impounding and Ownership

- Karl Bissex questions the feasibility of impounding the dog due to the time elapsed since the bite.
- Bram Towbin clarifies the dog's registration status and the town's ordinances regarding unregistered animals.
- Capt Meyer and Constable Keast discuss the challenges of identifying the dog's owner and the town's authority to impound.

Neighbor Testimonies and Further Actions

- Kim Nolan and Ryan Christianson provide additional details about the dog's aggressive behavior and the owner's actions.
- Michael Billingsley asks about the dog's potential to bite again if impounded.
- Constable Keast reads the town's dog ordinance, highlighting the unlicensed status and the animal control officer's authority to impound.
- Constable Keast & Peter Younbaer discuss the need for documentation and evidence to support actions against the dog.

Legal and Safety Concerns

- Speaker 8 reads state laws on killing dogs in certain circumstances and the right to self-defense.
- Kim Nolan expresses concerns about the dog's threat to her and her grandson.
- Michael Billingsley suggests notifying the animal control officer when the dog is seen outside.
- Capt Meyer and Constable Keast discuss the legal process and the need for a warrant to enter private property.

Final Decisions and Next Steps

- Karl Bissex makes a motion for the Select Board to request the animal control officer to impound the dog.
- Karl Bissex and others discuss the importance of documenting events and building a case.
- Michael Billingsley mentions the need for a vote to empower the issuing of tickets and actions.
- The meeting concludes with a motion to adjourn and plans to follow up on the dog incident and other related issues.