Date: September 29, 2015
Time: Meeting Convened 6:58 pm
Meeting Adjourned 8:20 pm
Place: Selectmen’s Meeting Room, Town Hall
Present:
  Brian Breveleri, Board Member
  Chrystal Greenleaf, Board Member
  Carol Kasabian, Board Member
  Jim Luippold, Board Member/Secretary
  Nicole Miner, Chairperson
  Audrey Safford, Board Member
  Anna Fenton, Animal Control Officer
  Christian Airoldi, Dog owner
  Sandy Brougham Witness to dog behavior

Meeting convenes at 7:07 pm with an official quorum.

**First order** of business to hear the complaint submitted by Belchertown Animal Control against Christian Airoldi of 33 Mill Valley owner of two rescued pit bulls Gugnar (male) and Ellie (female).

Miner reads through all documentation provided by Animal Control, including:

8/1/14: Citation for Ellie being impounded and RAL
12/10/14 Citation for Ellie RAL and impounded
7/15/15 Citation for Ellie but fees were waived due to house being broken into
7/15/15 Citation for Gugnar fees were also waived due to house being broken into
9/7/15 Citation for Ellie RAL and impounded
9/7/15 Citation for Gugnar RAL and impounded
9/7/15 Letter from a person who wishes to remain anonymous stating that Airoldi had two pitbulls in his garage. She stated that the two dogs had jumped out of a second story window. The female had hurt her paw in the fall.
9/14/15 Letter written by Kathy Hodgen re finding Ellie and Gugnar RAL by the Cold Springs School
Letter addressed to the Animal Advisory Board by dog officer Janet Lipscomb documenting what happened when Ellie and Gugnar were brought to the pound. Ellie was limping and Gugnar seemed to have a seizure. She insisted that the dogs be seen by a vet at Mill Vally vets by 9/8/15
which was not done. Harnesses and medication for separation anxiety were recommended to Airoldi.

Miner asks Airoldi if he had proof of bringing the dogs to the vets. He said he had no proof but stated that Ellie had been run over by a car weeks prior and that is how she hurt her paw.

Sandy Brougham stated that Airoldi’s male killed one of her prized roosters while he was RAL. Airoldi did provide restitution for the cost of the rooster. Brougham also stated that the dog was not vicious but needed to be neutered and strict training implemented.

Miner asks Airoldi how the screens in the windows got broken and why Airoldi did not inform the Board about Ellie’s injured paw.

Airoldi denies that the dogs jumped out of the second story window. The male breaks through his doors and screens. He stated that the dogs are contained in a first story room.

Breveleri reprimands Airoldi for not constructing a solid kennel to contain his dogs when he could have done so if he had not spent so much money on fines. (over $1,000)

He recommends a harness that he has used for training his dogs which proved an effective measure for containing them.

Fenton brings up the issue of Airoldi bringing Ellie to the vets and states that Airoldi lied to her via a text message by not telling the truth about Ellie’s injury.

Airoldi denies that he lied and said it was a question of semantics in the text message. He denied that Ellie jumped out of the window.

Miner asks Fenton to get a written report from the MSPCA regarding a visit to Airoldi’s home, bringing the dog to Mill Valley vets and providing info about Gugnar’s seizure.

Airoldi admits to yelling at his dogs at the pound but not in a threatening manner.

Miner asks Airoldi and Brougham to wait outside during the Board’s discussion.

After 15 minutes of discussion, the Board reaches a consensus that Mr. Airoldi must fulfill the following requirements about his male dog, Gugnar:

A.- **Neutering** of the dog within the next 30 days Suggested Airoldi to contact Second Chance of North Brookfield which offers neutering for $50

B.- **Medication**—Airoldi must bring Gugnar to a vet for anxiety medication within the next 7 days

C.- **Proof**—Airoldi must provide proof from a vet about Ellie’s paw injury and info about Gugnar’s seizure

D.- **Restraining**—Airoldi must keep the dogs restrained in his bedroom while he is at work
E- Training—Airoldi must look into a trainer for Gugnar to help with his separation anxiety issues

Consequences: Failure to do the above will result in the immediate removal of the dogs from his home

To ensure that Airoldi medicates and restrains his dogs in 7 days, there will be a Board meeting with Airoldi present on October 6, 2015 at 7 p.m. Room of meeting TBA.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Luippold acting secretary on 9/29/2015