**Minutes of special meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard**

**May 4, 2016**

These Minutes shall be accepted into the public record (with any corrections noted)

at a future meeting of the Whitingham Selectboard.

The Whitingham Selectboard held a special meeting on Wednesday, May 4, 2016 at 7:00pm in the Selectboard Office of the Municipal Center, 2948 VT Route 100, Jacksonville, VT.

Selectboard members present: Chair, Keith Bronson; Vice Chair, Allan Twitchell; Member, Robin Kingsley.

Others present: Gig Zboray, Selectboard Administrative Assistant; Dan Hollister, Animal Control Officer; Heather and Kent Boyd, residents

**Call to Order. Additions or Changes to Agenda.**

Chair, Keith Bronson called the meeting to order at 7:02pm. There were no changes or additions to the agenda.

**Vicious Dog Hearing**

Pursuant to Title 20, Section 3546 of Vermont law the Selectboard held a vicious dog hearing. Chair, Keith Bronson opening the hearing by reading the warning/notice of hearing followed by reading the complaint received.

Heather Boyd, dog owner, swore the following oath:

*I hereby solemnly swear that the evidence I give in the cause under consideration shall be the whole truth and nothing but the truth.*

Mrs. Boyd then testified that she and her husband were out of town at the time of the incident. The dog-sitter heard a commotion but when the sitter arrived on the scene the dogs had already been separated. Britton, the biting dog, has an anxiety disorder and becomes anxious when the owners are away. Britton often plays with the other dogs in the neighborhood and there has never been a biting incident before.

The Selectboard found that Britton was not on a leash at the time of the incident nor was she under the owner’s control.

The Selectboard found that Britton was “running at large” which is a violation of the Whitingham Animal Control Ordinance (Section 4-2) which is defined as “not on the premises of the owner or the property of another with that person’s permission and not restrained or under the direct verbal or non-verbal control of the owner; not hunting with the owner; or in a vehicle” (Section 3-7 Whitingham Domestic Pet/Animal Control Ordinance).

The Selectboard ordered that the domestic pet named Britton, owned by Heather Boyd is to be kept under the owners control at all times, either on a leash, on a run or voice command. Special care is to be taken when owner is away noting that Britton suffers from anxiety in this situation. Failure to comply fully with the conditions set forth in this order shall be subject to the penalties provided for in Title 20 Section 3546.

**Adjourn**

The hearing concluded and the meeting was adjourned at 7:19pm.

Respectfully submitted,

~Gig Zboray