

free at their former home, and they are doing their best to keep her in since they moved. Kord asked if they can afford to have a dog, Jessica said they can take care of dogs' food and basics, just not an in-ground fence. George commented that a small area with an in-ground fence could be better than an electric fence, because dogs will ignore the electric shock if they're protecting their owners or territory.

Dog Owner 2

Erica Van Alstyne swore to tell the truth. She confirmed that two dogs, Zoey and Cash, left their property at the time Elizabeth was bitten. Cash is not vaccinated, but is getting the shot, and both dogs will get registered. She wants to control the dogs with an electric fence and possibly a shock collar. Michael asked her to clarify the dogs' vaccination and registration status, and Erica said neither is registered or vaccinated. Michael asked what steps they have taken after receiving previous complaints, and Erica said they let the dogs out one and a time and watch them. Kord asked why they have not been confined on a leash as ordered. Erica said dogs in a rural area normally run free.

Public Comment

George Haslin said he disputes what the family says. Gary Clay gave him a number to call if the dogs are on George's property, but George has called the number many times, and no one has ever answered. He stated that as soon as they arrive at their house, the neighbors' dogs are there. George swore he told the truth.

Erica Abbott swore to tell the truth. She is a relative and spends time at the Clay home. She said there are also children at the house who let the dogs out, and it is hard to stop that from happening. She said the family is going to put up an electric fence. She had one once that worked well. Erica commented that other people's dogs run free, and she wondered why her family was being targeted.

Becky Eliastam swore to tell the truth. Her family went through a vicious dog complaint, and the town required them to build an in-ground fence, which they could not afford. The cost of these fences is prohibitive, so she asked the selectboard to seriously consider an electric fence. There were no questions for her.

Animal Control Officer

Ashley Pinger swore to tell the truth. She referred to the document she presented for the selectboard. (See attached.) She has interacted with the family numerous times. They had been told to keep their dogs on leashes whenever they were outside or to erect an electric fence. In her view, Angus is a sweet dog and is not a problem. Cash needs containment, as he has bitten before and could be the one who bit Elizabeth. He has a history of running at large. George asked about previous fines related to the dogs. Ashley said all fines are unpaid, and Cash and Angus are not registered.

Adjournment

Kord stated that a letter with the selectboard's decision will be sent within seven days.

Moved: To adjourn the meeting at 12:53 PM and go into deliberative session.

Kord moved and all agreed.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary McCoy, selectboard clerk
Minutes approved June 6, 2022

Accompanying documents:

Rules and Procedure for Selectboard Vicious Dog/Wolf Hybrid Hearings

Complainant's Statement

Clay and Van Alstyne Dog Issue History