

April 21, 2014

The Public Hearing for Local Dog Ordinance was held at the Taylor Town Hall at 6:30 pm.

Present were:	Deputy Supervisor:	Riley Closson
	Councilmen:	Joey Pudney
		Theodore Law Jr
		Jeff Smith
	Town Clerk:	April Law

Absent:	Supervisor:	Steve Breneman
---------	-------------	----------------

Also present: Historian Beth Hummel, Marie Peri, Judge Rollan Elwood, Steve Fox, Penny Witty, Wendy Fuchswanz, Bill Fuchswanz, Denise Cote-Hopkins and Hal Hopkins.

Riley opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Denise said she did not know how this meeting was going to work and Riley explained that this was the Public Hearing to review the new Dog Laws that the Town of Taylor is getting ready to vote into place. She asked if the Board was going to read it out loud or just go over the different sections. April said she had made copies and they must have taken them all so she went to her office briefly to make more for the public to review. Rollan asked if this was the Law or if it was just the proposed. Jeff told him that the Board will pass it after the Public Hearing and Riley added that is why we are here. If anyone has any questions regarding the Law now is the time to ask. Denise asked if they were going to answer the questions without the Town lawyer then said we will get to that. The Board gave everyone a few minutes to look it over and Steve Fox said his main concern was the dogs that are ticketed and go in front of Rollan and nothing is done about it. Riley said that is why we went with Country Acres and they sat down (April, Steve, Lindsay and Jeff) and wrote these out. They do it for Groton, Pitcher and Homer and they issue all tickets and they do everything by the book and it is outside of

the Town. Steve said that avoids family member problems as they have had already and it should be done out of Town. Riley again said that is why we went with Country Acres. Rollan said when people come in front of him he needs all the paperwork and Steve complained about the dogs chasing deer. April explained that from this point on any complaint should be filed with Country Acres and they will issue a Notice to comply, she showed everyone an example, and they are then given 2 weeks to comply and explained the penalty system put into place for repeat offenses per fee schedule. She explained that each offense will result in a higher penalty in hopes of teaching responsibility for the pet. Steve said that if a dog is in the road and gets hit it is the owner's fault they weren't smart enough to keep the dog tied up. Jeff agreed but added that it is unfortunate but that is a part of life. April added that these Laws do not state that the dog needs to be on a leash. It gives you the option to let your dog loose on your property but you must be able to control the dog by command. The animal is not considered "at large" if is on your property and is under control by voice or command. The dogs cannot run down the road, chase cars, destroy property and Jeff said be a nuisance and April agreed yes. Jeff said there are 2 ways to deal with the deer chasing and said during the quarantine you can call DEC or Country Acres, either way that dog will be dealt with. He read from the proposed Law and said when it is passed it states from March 1- October 31 and any other times issued by New York State. Marie added that in the past any time a dog was caught chasing deer in the quarantine time the Dog Warden was called and the dog was dealt with right then. Jeff said he is not saying that was a bad thing but that is not something we can do anymore. Steve added that you don't even want to mention that to them and everyone chuckled saying no probably not. Denise brought up the Department of Ag & Markets laws and had put it side by side with the proposed one and had a few questions. She said page 3, expiration of license states (also Section 5 b & d) that the license will be issued with the common renewal date of August 31 of said year and she wanted to know if it should be the following year and April said no. Tj then explained that all dog licenses expire at the end of August and said if you were to come in and license a dog right now it would be prorated but you would need to come back and license the dog in August. Denise tried to explain that August 2013 would be only 4 months of that year and it would be a majority of the next year. Riley again said the Town Law says all dog licenses expire August 31- August 30, that is our calendar year and Denise said ok. She said she was also confused about the prorating and asked what happens about the months of July and August. April said if someone comes in then she gives the license to expire

the next year and said she could not warrant making it expire in a month. Denise asked if that was why it was at 50% at not the 66% and said 4 months in this year and 8 months in the next would actually be 2/3 not 50%. April said she was getting confused and explained that anyone licensing a new dog between January and June will get that license which will expire August 31 of that year at a 50% reduced fee. If someone comes in July or August they will get a dog license to expire the following year at full price. Denise said then you are actually giving them 14 months and April agreed. Denise said that did explain that because it was kind of confusing. She then addressed the rabies certificate part of the Laws and read aloud the section regarding the license not being issued if there is no rabies vaccination or the one on file has expired as of date of renewal. She said when you go back to the State Law and while she was looking for the information Steve wanted to clarify that the Towns can make their own Laws to override the States Laws and Denise said no not correct it cannot be less restrictive and added that State Law must apply. Towns can make there Laws more stringent but never less and Jeff agreed that she was right on that. She read under the section- licensing of dogs it states that no dog shall be licensed without a rabies certificate expiring the period after the last day of the eleventh month of the current expiration date of current rabies. She also said that another section referred to the common renewal date, which is what we have, the rabies cannot expire within the eleventh month of the year in which the dog is being licensed. She felt they were saying #1 you should never have a rabies certificate on file that has expired because you are not allowed to issue them a license if it going to expire more than a month prior to the time the renewals come in. Jeff and Riley both agreed that this new Law says that by saying within 30 days of renewal. She said she was trying to make sure that he license will not be issued if the dog has an expired vaccination say within 3 months and that doesn't seem to be said in the ordinance. Steve asked April if they have to have a rabies certificate with them to license the dog and she said yes but added the renewal mailed out in July will state whether the dog needs a new rabies certificate. April said if they come in and that is the case she will not issue the license but if you come in and the rabies certificate expires in that month she does issue the license. Denise said then you have 11 months where you don't know and that is not consistent with State Law. April explained that you are putting the responsibility on the owner because if the rabies does expire within the licensing year it is up to them to get it done before renewal. If it is not done then they cannot renew the license and up for ticketing. Steve asked if Country Acres would be taking care of all of this and the Board said

no. Country Acres will make sure the dog is licensed and has rabies, fees coming back to the Town, before you take it home after impoundment but that is only after a complaint they do not drive around looking for the dogs. Steve asked about the late fee and April said it was added to the fee and Beth asked who would receive that. April explained that would come back to the Town and the Board hopes it will help offset the cost of the dog enumeration fees. The Board will have to hire someone to come in and do a professional enumeration because Country Acres feels it is a conflict of interest. Also any dog found unlicensed during the enumeration will also be charged an extra \$5.00 fee which will also help towards the cost of enumeration. So now they have the dog license fee plus the additional \$5.00 fee upon going to the Clerk. Denise gave the Board a paper that had the Law on it and they read it and agreed that it says if someone comes in and there license expires before August of the FOLLOWING year-within the eleventh month- you cannot give them a license. Denise said she felt it was valid question and Jeff agreed that it what and she added that it was updated as of January 2014. Jeff said so what this should read is if you come in and the license you have expires before July of the next year that cannot renew until a valid rabies certificate is presented and Denise said that's right, you got it. Jeff said it was a little confusing with all the 30 day talk and Denise said it was a little convoluted in the translation but she felt that is what it was trying to say. Everyone agreed that the wording needed to be changed to read as the State says, any rabies certificate expiring 30 days prior to renewal shall not receive a license. Jeff asked if that was what the wording should be and everyone said yes. Jeff explained that they stayed with the common renewal as not to make more work throughout other parts of the year for the Clerk and there had been some concern over the issue of people paying for a whole year license that would expire within a few months only to have to renew again in August, which is not a lot of money, but that is why they did the prorating. Steve asked where the extra expense was going to come from and wanted to know if taxpayers were going to see their taxes go way up to pay for this. Riley explained that the Board had worked it into the budget 2 years ago because they knew that something was going to have to change. Steve asked if dog licenses will shoot up to \$20.00 a pieces and Riley said no they had cut some lines to make room for it in the budget. Riley said it has been a headache since he came on the Board 2 years ago. Denise said the Law reads that you are giving someone a dog license with a 30 day rabies certificate and Jeff said he sees where she is reading it like that but that is not how it was meant to read. There was a question as to how long rabies shots

are good for and April answered 1 or 3 years depending on the age of the animal and Denise added or they cannot prove any rabies previously on the dog then you have to start over. Riley asked if there were any more questions and Denise asked everyone to refer to Section 8 in the State Law it indicates, maybe it is inside our Law, the dog is lost or stolen and the owner reports it to you within the 10 day period. It states that they are not liable for any damage the dog may have done after the date the dog is filed lost or stolen. She asked if the Board thought that should be included or if it is already encompassed into the Law referring by back to the State Law. The State Law reads that the owner shall not be liable past the date of filing lost or stolen animal report. She added that this is saying they have done their job by reporting to you and the dog does some act of damage they are not liable, that is what the State Law says. April said she would not agree with that but Jeff said that is what the State Law says they would have to follow it. Steve spoke about dogs running on State land and if a dog is found they must give it back. If his dog got out and chased the neighbor's cat on their lawn they could not keep it they would have to give the dog back. April said she thinks our Laws would be a great guideline and if the State has those in place and they were to ever come across an issue like that Country Acres would then issue a ticket falling back onto that Law for reference. She explained that there are 16 other Towns that have adopted this or similar to this ordinance and Country Acres knowing what the State Law requires has compiled this. The Board did not sit down and write this up out of the blue and their lawyers involved typing this up for Groton and many Towns have just mirrored it because it is a really good ordinance. Denise said so if someone was in such a position they would have to go back to the State Law to help them out and Steve said he thinks what would help sum it up and mentioned the incident between her and Chip's dog. Denise stated yes and she was being harassed and Steve said well whatever the case is. He then said you won't have to deal with Chipper all you will have to do is call them people. It is not a family event thing anymore and it gets him right out of the picture and covers the Town. Denise moved on saying the State Law allows that deceased dogs be allowed to be reported by renewal time and wanted to know what the forms will say. April said there is a box on the renewal if the dog is deceased to mark and send back to the Clerk and Denise said that does not jive with the State Law. She asked if people would get confused and not do it within the 10 days and then not get the fine of \$25.00. Jeff said he didn't think anybody needed to get a fine for that and Denise said if we are going to have a Law they have to apply it. If it says within 10 days then they have to apply it or you have to remove it. Jeff

asked her if it said that in the State Law and Denise said no not regarding deceased it says upon renewal but says that it can be adjusted to anytime. Joey asked if someone had to sign an affidavit that claiming the dog had died and April answered no and he said you use to years ago. April said that was probably when Department of Ag & Markets controlled all dog licensing. They have nothing to do with it anymore and each Town was required to set up their own licensing program, buy the tags and issue the licenses while sending them a portion of each fee. These fees are to help offset costs associated with spaying and neutering of dogs for a reduced fee to the public. Steve added that getting a dog fixed is \$400.00 whereas CNY SNAP can do it for about \$130.00 and April mentioned those fees also help set up the rabies clinics in local areas. Joey asked if Country Acres will put on a rabies clinic and April said it has been discussed and it was looking like May of next year which would give people the time to get the dog rabies, licensed before the enumeration took place. She is planning on being there as well so people can vaccinate the dog and get a license before ever leaving the property. Joey asked if they would come right out here and April said yes, we hope. Denise said she was looking at Section regarding the dog control officer, gives them all the power. Her question was you have the notice to comply then it goes to an appearance ticket right and April replied yes. She referred to the State Law Section 10 that says a Dog control Officer must maintain records for a period no less than 3 years which would be any seizure or subsequent dealing with any dogs. Riley assured her that Country Acres will do that and they have issued a report for the first month and will continue to issue one for every meeting. Jeff tried to reassure her that Country Acres was up to date on all Laws and putting this Local Ordinance into effect would only strengthen our Laws and if necessary the State Laws are always there to fall back on if need be. Riley again said that was why they went with Country Acres, they know the Laws and they know how to take care of the animals and Jeff added that will abide by all Laws including the State ones and cannot go less. Denise said also this section discussed the enumeration and said the Law States the Dog Control Officer would have to ascertain and list all names of all persons owning or harboring dogs. She said they spoke about it briefly at the last meeting and it was just a count she said it must include names too. Riley said Country Acres will not do the enumeration and the Board is looking for someone and asked Denise if she would like to do it and she nodded no. Riley said exactly and she said hire a professional. April said she did think there were professionals and it has been on a volunteer basis thus far. Jeff said that many Towns do not get it done but more and more and getting

it done to catch all the dogs. Steve asked how often it was to be done and April said it should be done once a year and added that at many Town Clerk meetings she has inquired who does there enumeration and it is always someone that Joe schmo knew from Town. Nobody really steps forward for these positions and Steve said sooner or later you will end up back in the same situation of people being related on the Board. He said it has to be someone from out of Town and impartial. Steve was asked why it is a problem if they are related to someone on the Board and Steve replied saying it is a conflict of interest and said he feels that is how this whole thing got started. Rollan added the last time they had a good one was when Marge Parks and Sharon did it and Steve said yeah but there wasn't an incident then. Now there is the problem with Denise and Chip and it will be the talk of the Town that this has turned into a family thing. Beth suggested a mass mailing and Jeff said the enumerator will go to the door and hear dogs barking while the property owner says no I have no dogs. Steve said he volunteered for the position under one condition, if he comes to the Town and he says this is how many dogs are in that house then they actually do something about it. Steve said he has had problems where people keep the dogs all in the house and will admit to say 4 dogs but there were 8 in the house. April said Country Acres would absolutely take care of that and Steve added that was why he feels it is good to get Chip out of this so the Board doesn't have this problem. Jeff said anyone in this Town can do it and there is a good chance they are related to a Board member. Will they treat family and such different yes he understands that and it is unfortunate but said the last good enumeration that was done was by Sharon and Marge. They dealt with people telling them no dogs but they could hear numerous dogs barking so they would put them down for 2 and that would at least force the people down here to get it taken care of. Steve said he knows because he had a dog on Union Valley for 5 years and never had him licensed but moved to the other end of the road and within days had a fine. April added that if you see 6 dogs you list 6 dogs and it will be noted. Steve said so you will give me a list of the dogs registered she nodded yes. Riley asked if he wanted the job and said it pays \$5.00 a dog + mileage. Once the list comes back to April she would go down through and mark off all the dogs with legal licenses and the rest would be issued a notice to comply giving them 2 weeks to get the dog licensed. If they don't Country Acres will issue the tickets and it is out of our hands. Everyone was in agreement that it was best to get it to Country Acres. Steve added that everyone knows Chipper and said his dog was not licensed and he was overdue on licensing then one day while up there getting something fixed Chip just

happened to mention hey buddy you got to go get the dog licensed before I have to write a ticket. Steve added to him this is a good deal but for the business end of it for the Town it is not good. Steve said he should have waited until he got a fine then the Town would have gotten the money but he did not, he added business is business and friends are friends. Jeff said we are asking the dog be licensed so that they prove the dogs have rabies shot that is reasoning behind a licensing law. Denise asked if a dog was found without a license would Country Acres deal with that and she was told yes. Joey suggested whoever performs the enumeration taking a camera for identification purposes but Jeff said they would have to worry about infringing on someone's privacy. Jeff said he would have to ask the lawyer and Joey just thought it would be good for reference. Steve said that was like exposing everyone that has a dog in the Town it would be infringing on their rights. April said you can list everyone that has dogs in the Town but you cannot release any personal information. April said you cannot give out phone number and such but you can let people know how many dogs are in the Town. Last year we had around 180 but she said she believes there is way more than that. Denise mentioned the \$1.00 and \$3.00 fee that Ag & Markets and said that all fees collected must be used for dog control purposes. Bill Fuchswanz asked what happens if a dog is not picked up and Riley told him they will try to adopt it out. They have a hand in both of those subjects. Steve said he had an issue where one of his dogs got out and went to Travis Gross's house and of course they have a lot of dogs, they tied it up and he never came home., They were driving around looking all over for the dog and 3 weeks later Travis finally caught up with him and let him know he had called the SPCA and it cost him \$175.00 to get the dog back. Jeff said if the dog wasn't where the dog was supposed to be you are going to pay for it and everyone agreed laughing. Bill Fuchswanz then asked if the Board had something in place with Country Acres where they would call with a complaint and she gave out the number. He explained that he has been having problems with a local dog coming over to his place and he has guard dogs. If this dog was to attack his dogs he wanted to know what he could do and Riley told him to call the number that April just read aloud. Bill asked what if the dog is attacking he is not going to jump on the phone and his wife said the dog had already killed some other small animals. April advised him to send a letter to the property owner requesting they keep the dog off of his property, sending a copy to Country Acres as well as the Clerk's office, then after that date if the dog is found on your property you would call and they would get a ticket for a nuisance dog. April said you would need to be willing to sign the letter so that the dog's owner knows

whose property is in question. Bill asked if that pertained to livestock at all and Jeff and April both said this new ordinance states “any domesticated animal”. Jeff said if that dog harasses your livestock or anything you have the right to file a complaint/. Bill said I want to know what I can do if that dog is attacking my dog on the front lawn and I feel it might kill my dog, can I shoot it? Jeff said no you can’t. Bill asked if he was just supposed to stand there and watch him kill my dog. Riley said we live in the Town of Taylor if you are in fear shoot it while saying he was sorry for feeling that way. Steve said there was an incident on Dutch Hill about 6 months ago where the property owner shot the dog and the cops showed up telling him he had every right because it was killing his animals. People who owned the dog contacted the Humane Society and he ended up getting arrested and said unfortunately that is what the Law states. Bill said that his guard dogs were a little more important than chickens. Bill again asked what to do and April explained to send the letter and then any further problems he would call Country Acres. Bill said he had an issue with having to notify the Clerk about a deceased dog within 10 days and said when they lose a dog they mourn and the last thing he wants to have to worry about it contacting the Clerk’s office before getting fined. He said he doesn’t want to talk about it and wanted to clarify where the decision was on that issue. April said for the last 2 years she has sent out all renewals and then people will call stating the dog had died and she would say she was sorry, would mark the account and moved on. Bill said will it stay that way and everyone agreed yes. Joey added that if the dog is lost you would still want to report it so as not to be liable for any damage. Denise said she wanted to address the issue of mentoring people to take care of the owners. She explained that they need to be educated in ownership and prevents loss of dog to the family and violations piling up what happens when they pile up and people can’t pay, we don’t want to take away their dogs. She said it was something to look into for future laws. She also wanted to address some wording in the Law on Seizure 7 Impoundment and read it saying it doesn’t make sense. She asked if it shall be pursuant to the State Law and she began looking for her paper work. Rollan said in the subject of a dangerous dog they would come in front of him and present all the paperwork and the decision is up to the court. He said he dealt with a similar situation in Cuyler and if it is proven that it is a dangerous dog the animal can be put down, he said it is done just like a trial. Riley asked him if Country Acres did Cuyler and Rollan replied yes. Steve said his dog is always in the truck and no one can even get near the truck what happens if he attacks someone or if the dog attacks someone who comes on your property. Rollan said the trial they had in

Cuyler a passerby on a bicycle was bitten by the dog that left the driveway and entered the road. Steve said that was understandable and Rollan said before the trial the owner gave the dog away and she was supposed to tell Country Acres where the dog went so they could notify the new owner that the dog was deemed "dangerous" and needed to be kept on a leash and muzzled. They could never find out who it was and Steve said so pretty much if they are on your property the dog has every right to attack and Rollan said there would have to be a trial. Rollan spoke of another incident where a dog came after Marge Parks riding a bike and the Dog Warden Bob Crowley went out and the dog came right over and he was able to pet the animal, it was deemed "not dangerous". Steve said what he was getting at is they have an aggressive dog and if it is with the family and attacks out of protection on his property or in his truck, is he covered? He said that if someone opens the door to his truck they are going to get bit but the dog would not exit the vehicle and said the dog is there for a reason. Jeff answered him saying no one should be in your truck and if that would be a problem for him as well. Steve added that anymore it is hard to get homeowners insurance if you have a dog or pack of dogs. April went back to the seizure & impoundment question that Denise had and explained that this is a Law and once this is passed it will be filed with the State and cannot be changed unless we go through the Public Hearing and votes all over again. The fee schedule applies to all impoundment fees, licensing and such and they put in the Law that would be passed by Resolution. That means that in a year if they find that the fees are too low the Board can change the fees just by discussion and a vote of the Resolution without having to rewrite the whole Law and filing again with New York State. Denise said is doesn't explain that and said well it does but it is confusing like the one before it. She referred to the word pursuant and said this section of the Law is very dramatic and read aloud "any dog control officer SHALL issue and serve upon such person an appearance ticket for such violation". April said yes and ours reads shall be passed. She then read aloud "The seizure and Impoundment of dogs in violation of Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law of the State of New York and of Section 7 of this Local Law SHALL be passed by resolution by Taylor Town Board". Denise said that is just for the fees and April said yes all the seizure & impoundment fees as well as licenses. She said okay but sees the one before that says "pursuant to the Law" you're not saying that and you are only speaking of the Resolution and that they are able to set the fees. April asked her so you want the word pursuant and Denise said yes just like the one before and read "in violation shall be pursuant to Article 7." and said that is all you would

need to have and you are reflecting back on the State Law and you don't have people coming forward saying oh we don't have a seizure law. April responded saying Country Acres advised us to do it this way and that is exactly how we did it. Denise said I know that but it is just not strong enough and added it is almost like it is not there. Denise moved on to Section 7 sub 6 "any owner to allow any dog to habitually chase..." she asked what is considered "habitual". Steve responded saying if you drive by Chipper and his daughter's house every day and the dog keeps chasing your car that is habitual, the Board agreed. Riley defined habitual as repeatedly, every day it's chasing your vehicle and Denise asked if she was going to have to deal with it for 2 years. Jeff added that if the dog is chasing your car for 3 days call Country Acres even 2 days call them and Denise said okay. She said there was something also on the last page she wanted to look at and said the way she understands it is they would have to drive out to Country Acres to make the complaint and Jeff said no call them up. Denise said no you are saying they have to take on Oath and read "any person who observes a violation of this Local Law may file a complaint under oath with the Dog Control Officer..." Jeff said you will call her she will come out and ask you all the necessary questions and then you would swear to her the information you are giving is true. Riley and Jeff both said it is not something that needs to be notarized or anything and compared it to going before the Judge, you swear under oath you will tell the truth. Denise said okay because she knows she will have to complain every day and she does not think she could make it to Scott (Country Acres) every day. She said that same section of 11 on the last page "such complaint may serve as a basis for enforcing the provisions of this Local Law" and said so Country Acres does not have to pursue things and if they do not where do you go after that. Steve said to Denise I don't know you and you don't know me but and told the Board this is going to be an ongoing problem living on Elwood road and said this is going to go on all night if we don't get to the bottom of it. Steve said every day she drives through there and is chased by dogs. Riley stated that is why we hired Country Acres and Denise said turkeys too which Steve said that is nothing to do with the dog law and Denise said she knew that. Riley repeated himself saying that is why we hired Country Acres. Steve said he deals with it going by someone else's place and you try to do the good neighbor thing. He added if you live on that road and if you hit the dog it is what it is. Steve said no different than a farmer having a cow get out and someone hitting it you lose the animal. Denise stated there is no other place in Cortland County where there are that many animals allowed to just walk in the road. She said it takes 2 hours to get the police to respond and the State police

were told a lie about a large fence going up while the turkeys are still out all over the road. She said again there is no other place in Cortland County where this occurs and stated she just learned a new word, subrogate (sp?). She had to file a no fault claim with her insurance company and if the insurance company finds people liable they will go after them. She said if a whole school bus of children needs to break quickly by the knoll someone could get seriously hurt. Hal said the question becomes what if Country Acres does not respond and they have not responded. Steve told then they would come back to the Town and complain because they are the ones that hired them and then it becomes a whole other matter. Hal said there had been several instances where they have contacted them and they have not responded whatsoever, what do you do then. April said I tried to explain that Country Acres hands are tied the last few weeks because of the lapse of coverage for this incident. Our Laws that applied then did not cover ticketing for chasing cars, running at large, etc. Country Acres has been waiting for this meeting to happen for these Laws to go into effect then they will have a much bigger basis to issue tickets. April said they issued a Notice to Comply and they did come down and license 3 dogs and that is what they were told to do. As of tonight April added that if they complain then Country Acres can issue a ticket specifically for chasing cars. She asked Denise if she understood and said the only thing that could have been ticketed on was unlicensed animals. Town of Taylor had no leash laws in place and basically had a "nuisance dog law". Denise asked why they just don't fall back on the State Laws and April said they do not care about the dogs. It comes down to each Town making their own Laws with the State as a cushion to fall back on when nothing else is in place and said all the State cares about is getting the money. April said they could care less how many dogs are licensed or who follows the rules. Jeff said this is trying to help your problem and held up the proposed ordinance and Denise said she knows that but she is just trying to make sure it is good. Steve said it will come down to safety it is better to hit the animal or deer versus a tree and having serious injury. Steve said the turkey problem had nothing to do with the Town it was a DEC thing and Denise said no it is under the Town Law and gives the authority to each Town to make Laws about farm animals. Jeff said we are here for the dogs tonight. Denise said the last thing she wanted to address the lack to access of vaccination, the lack of that would be a violation. She feels that needs to be spelled out because of the confusion with the licensing earlier, and that is how it gets caught. She said however the Department of Health in Cortland County, she called them, she said it is compulsory and said there is a \$200.00 fine. They do not apply it and send

letters out to try and get people to vaccinate but if they feel necessary they will go up to the \$200.00 fine. The health Department said they do not go around looking for the dogs, like Country Acres, they rely on the SPCA to call them. She feels we should try to have Country Acres get the County Health Department involved if we are dealing with no rabies vaccination. Steve said they are addressing it when coming to get the license, no rabies no license. Then Country Acres would be notified of the unlicensed animal and it becomes their problem along with the Judge. Riley said one way or another it will get dealt with. Denise said that lead her to another question, what happens when we find abuse and April asked her at Country Acres. Denise said no not there but if they respond to a complaint and find abuse April stated they would take the dog. Denise said okay but do you have anything that tells Country Acres they have to go to the SPCA and Jeff answered that he did not think they needed to they know abuse and they are a rescue shelter and will intervene to save the dog. She said she was trying to still find the information about the public and rabies and Riley told her we were not here for that we are here to discuss the Dog Laws. Denise said these are part of the laws Riley added that the Supervisor is not here and that is why Riley is running the meeting. He wanted the Law passed so the people we are paying the money to can do their job. April added that she felt this Ordinance did a great job at reflecting what she, as well as the Board, has heard in the past couple years from people. Steve commented that the ordinance was an excellent setup and April said Thank you, Country Acres does many surrounding Towns and they all have nothing bad to say about them. April said she has dealt with Lindsay a couple times in the month and she has been great. Riley said she was very well spoken and she really knew her stuff, Joey agreed. Denise stated this would be her very last thing and went to the rabies section from Department of Health, which is the County has nothing to do with the Town at all. She added that they will not do this unless they are notified and read aloud "compulsory vaccinations have to be investigated fairly shall be immunized against rabies in accordance with provisions by the Commissioner 4 months after birth" she said the last part of this "owning of a dog, cat or domesticated ferret by a person in violation of this Section shall constitute a violation will be subject to a fine not to exceed \$200.00". The County is saying they start a process to get people to come in but it has teeth behind it. She said she has been dealing with dogs that had no rabies for 2 years and asked about the cats in the area. Steve said the Town cannot spend a million dollars trying to get rid of all the stray cats because they may scratch someone and have the risk of rabies. She said is what a question to ask Country

Acres sometime, what will they do. April said we are trying to help get all the dogs rabies and licensed by setting the Laws up, planning a rabies clinic next spring. We find a dog during enumeration we will try to get the dog's rabies certificate and a license and said I don't know what else we are supposed to do. Denise said it was interesting that there is clearly such an explained Law that can't be applied. Jeff said well there are a lot of them out there and Riley said talk to New York State. Denise said 2 years she had been exposed with no penalty. Jeff said those dogs are licensed and vaccinated and Denise loudly said at this point but we lived with it for over 2 years and Jeff asked her what she wanted him to do about it. Steve said from now on there should be no problem and everyone agreed. Riley asked if there were any more questions and Denise said she would be notifying the Health Department whenever she finds an unvaccinated dog and asked why isn't the Town doing what the Law is asking for and Riley said we are. Denise said she was going to write a letter to the Department of Ag & Markets and find out what is going on and said she wants to know why the Law is being ignored.

MOTION: "Accept proposed dog laws with changes applying to rabies vaccination dates and deceased dogs will be at renewal time"

Made by Jeff Smith, 2nd by Tj Law

Votes cast: Jeff Smith

Tj Law

Riley Closson

Joey Pudney

carried

MOTION: Adjourn the meeting was made by Jeff Smith, 2nd by Tj Law....carried

Respectfully Submitted,

April Law
Town Clerk