

**SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 3, 2009**

Present:	John Quinn David Tilton	Robert Bancroft Nanette Rogers
Guests:	Mary Campi Betty Howard	Lois Reynolds

DOG HEARING

The town received a complaint from Betty Howard for a dog owned by Lois Reynolds. The complaint states that Willy killed the Howard's chickens on the morning of October 20, 2009. A site visit was conducted by Mary Campi.

Mary's report indicates 16 chickens were killed. She stated that Ms. Reynolds had called admitting that her dog had killed the chickens because her dog ran off that morning and came home with a chicken in its mouth. In Mary's opinion the attack is consistent with that from a dog. Based on all the evidence collected and Ms. Reynolds phone call, she feels Willy was involved and responsible for the incident.

Ms. Reynolds stated that initially she did admit her dog killed the chickens because she was reacting emotionally to the situation. However after having some time to think, she does not believe her dog killed them. She admitted that her dog had run off and came home with a chicken in its mouth. She does not believe her dog had enough time to kill that many birds within the amount of time it was gone, which was a little more than an hour, nor would it have been able to jump the fence. Ms. Reynolds questions the time of when the birds were killed believing that the Howards would have heard the commotion if it happened during the time Willy was missing. Ms. Reynolds added that her dog was wrongly accused by the Howards earlier this year of killing their chickens, which was later found to be a false accusation. With Mary's assistance, she has decided to place her dog up for adoption to a non-Westford home.

Mrs. Howard stated that raising chickens is her livelihood. Her production is now 13 dozen per week, which is down from 27 dozen per week. She had a statement from the store she sells the eggs to; she estimates her losses at \$58.00 per week. She would like to be compensated for the chickens and the loss in revenue.

After some deliberation, the Board and Mrs. Howard agreed on a price of \$10.50 per chicken (\$168.00) and \$95.00 in loss revenue. Ms. Reynolds will remit \$168.00 to the Town and \$95.00 to Mrs. Howard.

ADJOURN

Dave Tilton made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bob Bancroft. Motion passed: 3-0. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

John Quinn, Chair
Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Clerk