Poultney Selectboard Board

Special Meeting Minutes

**Monday, February 10, 2025 – 5:30 pm**

Poultney Town Hall

Zoom Link here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/93KVT71JgH4pxA88DSNgyC0pvtvbH0W-j3PdRhfB7SCqcHiDtKDQX5RF1aXlthg4.Vx4R3Q5cfbFasITe>

Jeff King called the meeting to order. Selectmen present included: Jeff King, Sheryl Porrier, Alan-Glen Burnell, Mark Teetor and Valerie Broughton. Others present included Paul A. Donaldson, Mary Sue Reed, Danhee and Raj Bhakta as well as their minor children, Devin and Rachel Fowler, Ryan Messer, David Burby, Sheila Jones, Chris and Sherry Roberts, Carol Stierle, Margaret Mug, Steve Kainan, Nancy Liberatore, Patty Davenport, Khanti Monroe, and an unidentified gentleman. Appearing via Zoom included Joel Roberts, Highway Foreman, Nancy, Susan Olshuff, Meg, owner, Alicia Marcy, Steph, Bryn Doan, Kimberly Carter, and another owner.

**Adoption of the Agenda:** Mark Teetor made a motion to adopt the agenda. Sheryl Porrier seconded the motion. Motion carried with all in favor. Paul Donaldson stated that this hearing was being conducted pursuant to Article 17 of the Town of Poultney Animal Control Ordinance adopted November 9, 2010, as well as Title 20 V.S.A, Section 3541(2) and Title 6 V.S.A., Section 1151(2). Paul Donaldson stated that he had not received a written statement from Mr. and Mrs. Roberts about allegations that the Bhakta dogs allegedly killing their chickens and that was not part of this hearing.

**Vicious Dog Complaint Hearing:** Rachel Fowler presented to the board her complaint alleging that two dogs owned or controlled by Mr. and Mrs. Bhakta killed chickens owned by her and her husband on 01-22-2025. There were several interruptions by Mr. Bhakta as well as several accusations exchanged by and between Devin and Rachel Fowler and Mr. Bhakta.

Mrs. Bhakta described her encounter with the Fowlers on 01-22-2025 when she was confronted with the allegations that the Bhakta dogs had killed their chickens. There continued to be several discrepancies stated by Mr. Fowler and Mr. Bhakta.

Mr. Bhakta presented to the board that there was no definitive proof that his dogs had killed the Fowler chickens. There continued to be several outbursts by and between the Fowlers and Mr. Bhakta.

David Burby, neighbor to the Fowlers stated he had tracked dog tracks to the Bhakta residence. He stated that he has hunted deer all his life, and was very versed in tracking animals, and that while he never saw the Bhakta dogs kill the Fowler chickens, he was certain the tracks lead right back to the Bhakta residence.

Sheila Jones stated she works for the Bhaktas and that they have installed a GPS fence to contain the dogs. She stated the dogs are currently sick, but have been responded well to the fence.

Ryan Messer stated his wife, Mollie Messer was unable to attend this hearing, but that they had met with Mr. Bhakta and were satisfied with his proposal to contain the dogs as well as the settlement for their deceased chickens.

Shelly Roberts stated she had settled with the Bhaktas and was satisfied with the resolution as to her complaint against the Bhaktas.

Margaret Mug stated she has encountered the dogs in questions and commended Mr. Bhakta for his voice command/control of the dogs.

Khanti Monroe urged neighbors to be civil to each other and treat each other with respect regardless of perceived class status.

At the conclusion of the hearing Alan-Glen Burnell made a motion for the Selectboard order Mr. and Mrs. Bhakta to confine or contain their dogs to their own property by any means necessary and that such dogs shall be leashed when off their own property. Mark Teetor seconded the motion. Motion passed with all in favor.

**Adjournment:** Mark Teetor made a motion to adjourn. Valerie Broughton seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

s/Paul A. Donaldson