

TOWN OF BROWNFIELD
SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES
TO ADDRESS A CITIZEN'S COMPLAINT
AUGUST 24, 2024

Selectmen Present: Chairman, Ricky Emery and Frank Day. There is still a vacancy on the Board of Selectmen. Other's present were: Animal Control Officer, Cindy Eaton; Brian Merrill; Lori Brann; Cindy Walker, and Brian Fortier.

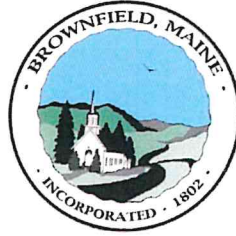
Chairman, Ricky Emery called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM, and explained that we posted notice of this meeting on the Town Office door and on the Town Website.

Ricky said that this meeting is to hear Brian Merrill's citizen complaint but nothing accusatory, just the facts will be acceptable. Brian is allowed to present any information that he feels we need to present to the Town's Attorney, Leah Rachin of DrummondWoodsum. Brian asked if we have the Town's folder here and Alvina presented 3 folders for Ricky and Frank to review to assure there is nothing in them that is Attorney/Client privilege. There were three documents that Ricky and Frank felt were e-mails with legal entities and Ricky said he will not release, 6 pages total.

Brian presented a statement and Ricky asked if he wanted him to read it aloud. He did not read it aloud. Brian asked if he would get a response from the Attorney. Ricky explained that the Town had changed Attorney firms in the year he was gone and that we have now gone back to DrummondWoodsum. He assured Brian that anything he presents to the town will be given to the Town Attorney. Ricky said the Town Attorney is not a judge or jury but he will follow the Attorney's judgement. Brian asked if he said the ACO was bias would that be accusatory and Ricky said, yes, he would consider it accusatory, not fact.

Ricky also said that he want's taxpayers to come to them and he read aloud the posted Executive Session for Monday August 26 with the Town Attorney and said that Brian can rest assured that this will be given to the Towns Attorney. If she is willing to meet with Brian then he will allow it. Brian asked Ricky to read the document he presented to himself and Ricky passed it over to Frank and asked Brian if that is something he wants presented to the Town's Attorney. Brian said, yes. Brian presented several other documents and will present more if he gets them printed out.

Brian reviewed the three folders and did not want any copies of anything in them stating he has many of them already. He questioned one email response and asked what proof is there that it is a farm. Ricky said he has a notarized document from the Bridgton Court saying that the DA will not do anything with it. It was dismissed. Ricky is still waiting for the second Court issue. Brian questioned exemptions and Ricky asked did she pull any IRS information for any exemptions? Ricky said no one can say that he is getting an exemption without someone proving it. Ricky said



there are “blue laws” that are out there. We have MMA but they do not represent the Town so we rely on the Town Attorney and their firm. Ricky said it is very hard to beat “blue laws.” In response to Brian saying that nothing has been done, Frank said we have three folders’ there so you can’t say we haven’t been doing anything and now Rick is trying to get answers, that there is no simple answer, we are going to give this to the lawyer and that should be the end of it, what happened in the past shouldn’t matter.

Ricky said he would love to have a speedy resolution and move forward but he can’t tell him that. He assured Brian that this firm is quick to respond. Lori said their frustration is that they allow the dog to bark on and on.

As a Selectman, Ricky has to balance the cost to pursue anything we are not in enforcement. Brian asked if we went to the State and the answer was, we did reach out to Matt Randall.

Enforcement is a big part of it. Ricky said he cannot answer for the previous year but he will gather the information today and present it to the Town Attorney. Ricky said everyone in this town that has a complaint, will be addressed. If the Town Attorney resolves it and it isn’t what you want to hear, it is what it is. He will always follow a legal entity.

In response to Lori’s question about the Dog Ordinance, Ricky explained that amendments to ordinances would go before the town at a town meeting or a special town meeting.

Ricky said as soon as we have an answer we would give it to Brian.

Cindy Walker said she was very thankful to everyone for turning out for a meeting like this.

Ricky motioned, Frank 2nd to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 PM. Vote unanimous by show of hands. Vote 2-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alvina Day
Administrative Assistant