Town of RAYMOND
Home of the Landlocked Salmon
INCORPORATED 1803

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To: Don Willard, Town Manager

Date: February 18, 2014

From: Louise Lester, Town Clerk

Subject: Resolution to allow the use of a Dog Warrant

I am attaching a draft resolution for the Board of Selectmen's consideration to allow the town to create an annual Dog Warrant for those people who have unlicensed dogs after the date of the signed warrant.

The State of Maine withdrew the law which required an annual Dog Warrant in each municipality. However, it did allow each municipality to have their own Dog Warrant if they wished.

The Dog Warrant is a list of dog owners who are delinquent in licensing their dogs. By state law all dogs are to be licensed by December 31st of each year and then the state has allowed a 30 day grace period until January 31st before a fine of $25 per dog, which has not been renewed, goes into effect. Being that we have only about 34% of our previously licensed dogs unlicensed as of this date, I would like to be able to create a Dog Warrant which would become public information much like our delinquent tax payer list we have in the Annual Town Report. I don't intent to publish this warrant in the Town Report but it would be possible to do.

At this time it is not known how many dogs in Raymond are not licensed or have never been licensed. The revenue from dogs supports our Animal Control Department which helps defray that cost from our municipal budget. To date this office has sent postcard reminders at least once a year in December and has hosted a rabies clinic for those owners who can't afford to take their dog to a veterinarian for their rabies vaccination which is required by law in order to get a license. The cost of a license is minimal: $6.00 for a neutered and $11.00 for a not neutered dog. This is probably the least expensive cost we have in the town office but people don't seem to see the importance of licensing their dog. Our current Animal Control appropriation is $19,870 with $15,870 coming from taxation. Currently we have 993 dogs on our list so having more dogs licensed would help offset this expense. As of this date we have 350 dogs on my list which have not been licensed.

The expenses for Animal Control are salaries for the Animal Control Officers, their uniforms, equipment, mileage and expenses, and our contract with the Animal Refuge League (shelter) of $5,856. The job of the Animal Control Officer is to catch animals at large i.e. dogs, cats, pigs, horses; pick up and deliver domestic small animals to the Animal Refuge League in Westbrook if can't locate the owner; assist Public Works in picking up road killed domestic animals; taking harmed domestic animals to a veterinarian usually the Emergency Facility in Westbrook; helping at the rabies clinic; helping people catch stray animals; ticketing and if necessary summonsing owners for not licensing their dogs; as well as answering complaints relative to animals in Raymond.