

## **SELECT BOARD MINUTES September 28, 2009**

Present: Select Board members Tom Ulrich and Dave DeHerdt  
Town Administrator Maryellen Cranston

More than 50 residents

Meeting called to order 7:06 pm.

**Fire Station Grant** – Doug Field, with an assist from Matt Haskins, made a presentation on the federal fire station grant that was submitted for a new fire station.

**Petition** – Resident Mary Quigley presented a petition signed by 265 voters to not have John Svoboda appointed as police chief. Discussion followed on the case. Tom felt that there was enough evidence to terminate. Dave said that he felt the evidence was not trustworthy and the witnesses were not credible. He could not agree to terminate due to the emails and the credibility issue. He felt that the Chief was responsible for his officers bringing into to the station sexual paraphernalia for his birthday party. He felt that town officials had stirred up the situation.

According to Dave, the town can't act on the petition if there is no legal basis for doing so.

The question was asked as to what will be different to ensure this does not happen again. Dave's response was that John is required to go through trainings. The Board will sit down with him before he comes back to make sure there are procedures and protocols in place. A Board member will meet with him weekly. Someone will also talk to the officers. There will be more supervision. Dave asked though that people keep in mind that the select board is not in town 8 hours a day. The Board may appoint someone else to act as the liaison.

Tom stated that John was disciplined for sexual harassment. There were instances other than the birthday party. He only went along with Dave so there would be some punishment.

Dave told Tom to develop some backbone. Dave stands by his decision. He listened to the small details and found contradictions. If there were lies on the small details then everything was thrown in doubt.

The question was asked regarding protecting against retaliation. Dave said that if there was any retaliation, the individuals involved should come forward and immediate action would be taken.

**Liaison Reports** – Dave met with Highway Superintendent, Tom Poissant. The select board will remain as the trench permitting authority. The highway superintendent will be responsible for the day to day supervision.

The dam has a leak. The question was discussed as to who would pay for fixing it.

The Ashfield House is investigating options of recycling. One of the ways they could accomplish this is to use the resources of the transfer station. We will wait for further information.

Police liaison – Ken Chow reported that all appears to be in order with the police department. He has no concerns to bring to the board at this time.

Emergency Management – Doug Field reported that all the plans that needed to be done by September 30 have been submitted and accepted. He has also spent the \$2500 grant that needed to be done by September 30.

**Minutes** – Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the minutes of September 14. Vote was unanimous. Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the minutes of September 21. Vote was unanimous.

**Town Hall Use** – Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the Fall Festival Committee's application for the use of town hall and the common for \$200 and a \$25 floor use fee. Vote was unanimous.

Motion was made, and seconded, to continue the Film Festival's application to use the upper hall of town hall for a second showing of their film's for a \$30 fee and a \$25 floor use fee. Vote was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Town Administrator