

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

**SEPTEMBER 26, 2007 - 6:00 P.M.
LONGFELLOW MUNICIPAL CENTER**

MINUTES OF MEETING

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairperson Diane McCutcheon, Vice Chairman Paul Savage, Selectmen Tom Petrowicz and Charles Poulin

BOARD MEMBERS RECUSED: Selectman Karin Furno

OTHERS PRESENT: Executive Secretary Helen Coffin

The Meeting is called to order at 6:00 p.m.

The Board meets with Fire Chief Mullaly (“Chief”) as a follow-up to the Board’s last meeting with him of September 10, 2007. Additional concerns have been brought forward to the Board concerning two issues: the daily “coffee time” at the Station and the EMT schedule.

Board members feel very strongly that something needs to be done immediately concerning the “coffee time” with residents at the Fire Station. Recent incidents have occurred that were inappropriate and unprofessional and an embarrassment to the Town. Savage asks the Chief to provide an update as to what he has done since the last meeting.

The Chief has spoken with most of the Department’s officers and has decided to adjust the full-time work schedule so they are not at the Station during the coffee time...with the hope this will avoid further issues. Board members do not feel this will resolve the problem; and feel that adjusting the employee work schedule to accommodate “coffee time” is inappropriate. Lengthy Discussion follows on this matter. The Chief will rethink that decision.

The Chief informs the Board of a class he attended where he learned that Fire Stations are not public buildings. The Board questions who is allowed in the Station and for what purposes, with specific attention given to the accessibility of privileged and confidential medical information and the need for downtime of the Firefighters/EMTS when coming back from a call. The Board does not want any liability issues. Discussion follows on this issue. The Chief indicates he has spoken with the “coffee time” visitors regarding these issues.

Board members advise that anyone coming into the Fire Station on unofficial business should be asked to leave. The full-timers should be authorized to ask people to leave the building if they think their presence is inappropriate. The Fire Station is not the

appropriate place for public negative comments and conversations concerning various Town officials, which have been overheard and reported to the Board. Board members advise that a system needs to be in place to take care of these matters in the Chief's absence.

Board members suggest there is a respect/lack of respect issue present within the Department. Discussion follows on this issue. It is recommended that the Chief meet with his full-timers on a daily basis so that all issues are addressed. He should schedule a time, have an agenda and address issues from the previous day, present day and next day. The full-time employees should be given the opportunity to address concerns. Discussion follows on this matter.

In conclusion, it is suggested the Chief come up with some ideas so that the individuals coming into the Station on a regular basis are authorized to be there, such as making them auxiliary members, volunteers, giving them a specific job in the building, etc., and provide them with an official title and badge. Discussion follows on this suggestion.

(The Board did not address the EMT Schedule matter.)

Chief Mullaly and Paul Savage leave the Meeting.

McCutcheon briefly informs/updates the members on various ongoing Town matters, such as the bridge, landfill and Business Retention Grant.

Motion by Petrowicz, seconded by Poulin, to adjourn the Meeting at 7:45. Motion passes by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Helen M. Coffin

Diane O. McCutcheon, Chairperson

Paul J. Savage, Vice Chairman

Thomas Petrowicz, Selectman

Charles Poulin, Selectman

APPROVED AND SIGNED 10/1/07