

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES JULY 18, 2014
APPROVED**

Present: Josh A. Degen, Chair; Anna Eliot, Vice Chair; Stuart M. Schulman, Clerk; Peter S. Cunningham, Member; John G. Petropoulos, Member

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant; Brian Maser, Town Counsel; Melisa Doig, HR Director

Mr. Degen called the meeting to order at 7:36am.

Mr. Degen said that the reason for the meeting was to address 4 different complaints filed against officials and employees by 4 individuals. He said that they were planning on conducting the hearings in executive session but that the accused had a right to request that their hearing be done in open session. Mr. Haddad asked how much assurance the Board could provide that everything done in executive session would stay in executive session. He said that the Board had held previous executive sessions and based on an article in the local blog, some details appear to have been leaked. Mr. Degen said that this was a completely closed topic and must remain confidential. He said that anything that left the room could jeopardize the Town. Mr. Schulman asked if the allegations were found to be unsubstantiated, could they release that. Mr. Maser said that everything must remain confidential. He said that minutes could be approved for release or if an accused says you can release that information, then you can. There was a brief discussion about possibly releasing a press release. Mr. Cunningham said that he appreciated Mr. Haddad's concerns.

Mr. Degen said that he would entertain a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Sec. 21(a)(1), to hear complaints or charges brought against public employees. Mr. Cunningham made the motion. Mr. Schulman seconded the motion. Roll Call: Eliot-aye; Cunningham-aye; Schulman-aye; Petropoulos-aye; Degen-aye

Mr. Schulman moved to exit the Executive Session and reconvene in Open Session at 11:50am. Ms. Eliot seconded the motion. Roll Call: Degen-aye; Schulman-aye; Cunningham-aye; Eliot-aye; Petropoulos-aye

Mr. Degen welcomed the public back and read the following press release.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed 4 complaints for a significant amount of time. The Board would like to thank those individuals who appeared and provided the Board with the information necessary to review these complaints. After thorough and complete review of the complaints filed, the Board has found the allegations advanced in the complaints are unsubstantiated and that the individuals named in them exonerated. The Board further recognizes the difficulty that this series of events has caused for those accused and appreciates the full and open cooperation that has allowed resolution of this matter. The Board has the highest level of confidence in the ability of the Department to protect the public. We consider this matter closed.

Mr. Schulman moved to adjourn at 12:00pm. Mr. Petropoulos seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Approved: _____

Stuart Schulman, Clerk

respectfully submitted,
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 8/18/14