

Minutes from the Selectmen's meeting of July 23, 1990

Present William Suydam, Chairman, Don Phelps, Harry Page, Eliz. Shaw, Secretary and members of the press. (Kelly Hatmaker, Mary Allen, Jackie Cottle, and Lucy Cook).

Meeting called to order at 7:30

Patricia Hammond Grant was sworn in as a member of the ZBA.

Elizabeth & Joe Sindoni met to inform the selectmen they were taking legal action against all responsible for shutting their wedding reception down in the early evening of July 21 due to one complaint of loud music and not having been given the opportunity of lowering the music.

Chris Joseph, Police Chief, was asked by selectmen if this is the usual practice. Since Chris was out of town and not present at the time, he did not want to second guess the officer on duty. He did state the usual practice when a complaint is received due to a party was to have music lowered and if complaints continued, then have the music shut off at a reasonable hour. Consideration is usually given for exceptional occasions such as weddings.

Harry Page requested permission to speak and was granted permission. He believes discretion should have been used since this was a wedding and not a weekly party.

Chris Joseph requested executive session. Don Phelps moved to grant executive session per RSA 91 A, second Bill Suydam, board was polled. Don Phelps yes, Bill Suydam yes, so moved.

Meeting called to order. No information was released at this time from the executive session.

Clark Craig, Sr., Clark Craig, Jr., Barry Frosch, and Joe Smith met to discuss a matter which involved personnel and requested executive session. Selectmen had reservations as to the request but after reading a list presented by the group, and to insure no damage to the reputation of another, Wm. Suydam moved to grant executive session per RSA 91 A, second Don Phelps. Don Phelps yes, Bill Suydam yes, so moved with the understanding that information from the session will be given to the press if the selectmen find the information does not damage the reputation of personnel involved.

Selectmen moved to reconvene their regular meeting. Clark Craig Sr., requested a follow-up meeting to be set in two weeks. Selectmen asked if the group wished to return next week, but due to Clark Jr. being away, it was agreed to set the meeting for August 6. Since topics discussed in the executive session could be damaging to an officer, no information was released from the session at this time.

The cost of the handicapped ramp with the changes requested by the selectmen was reviewed. Harry Page pointed out the research which was given to the ramp being interior or exterior should be reviewed. Mary Allen mentioned the 100 anniversary of the building and asked if the Historic Committee had been spoken to regarding the ramp. Since the selectmen had more questions and since only one bid was received and not the three they were hoping for, the selectmen asked that H&Z Const. be called and request an exterior bid be worked up before any decision is made.

Don Phelps moved to have Bill Suydam continue to sit on the SAU. Second Bill Suydam, so moved.

Harry Page resigned from the Mill Pond Committee. Mary Allen has had an offer from the fire department to remove the old building from the rear of the Town Hall. They hope to drain the pond in late August in order to get a better figure of how much dredging will be required.

Chris Joseph returned to the meeting.

Don Phelps moved to go into executive session per RSA 91 A. Second Bill Suydam. Don Phelps yes, Bill Suydam yes, so moved.

Meeting reconvened.

An appointment will be made to meet with Mike Clemens and Gary Gagnon next week at 7:30.

Bill Suydam brought the reporters up to date over the past weeks meetings with Police Chief Chris Joseph. A talk between Bill and Chris last Tuesday resulted in an executive meeting with the Board on Wednesday. At that time Chris made his intentions known to the Board of Selectmen.

A letter of resignation received from Chris this evening was read. Bill moved to accept the resignation with regrets, second Don Phelps. So moved.

At the time of the meeting Wednesday, Bill reported Chris was not aware a group of citizens were scheduled to meet with the Selectmen this evening.

Bill reported that during the executive session with Clark Craig Sr., Clark Craig, Jr., Joe Smith and Barry Frosch allegations were made, all of which had been investigated over the past months and nothing was found to substantiate the allegations. A lot of rumors with no facts.

Mary Allen question if Chris was leaving due to a dispute with fellow officers, Selectmen or town citizens. Bill believes he is just tired of all the allegations.

Mary also asked if the selectmen have made a decision as to a temporary police chief and what plans Chris has made. Selectmen believe since there is a Sgt. there is no need for an appointment at this time to temporary chief.

Bill Suydam reported Chris was an excellent policeman and Don mentioned the nine and a half years he served the Town. Although Chris did not mention his plans at this time the Selectmen expect

he will make a statement either directly to the press or through the office.

Bill Suydam moved to adjourn the meeting as there were no further questions. Second Don Phelps. So moved.

Meeting adjourned 10:20

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