



BELLINGHAM PLANNING BOARD

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October 4, 2001 Executive Session Meeting Minutes

- **Present at the meeting:**

Roland R. Laprade (RRL), Chair
Richard V. Dill (RVD), Vice Chair
Brian J. Sutherland (BJS)
Steve D. Choiniere, Sr. (SDC)
Edward W. Guzowski (EWG)
[Absent: Glenn C. Wocjik (GCW), Alternate]

Other officials: Paige Duncan (PED), Town Planner

RVD Asked at the end of the regularly scheduled Planning Board meeting to go into executive session.

PED Asked if according to the by-laws, he had reason to go into executive session. He stated he did.

RVD thought it appeared with the office moving to the white house on Common Ave, that because Roland was the chair for the Planning Board, that it gave the appearance that we're giving work to Roland. The Ethics Committee always says that it may not necessarily be a conflict of interest, but just the suggestion of the appearance makes it wrong.

EWG: Expressed his opinion that it had more to do with rumors around town than any substantive ethical issues.

RVD: We didn't take a vote on it. I don't want Roland to take a fall or the Board to take a fall.

BJS: Whose responsibility is it to decide on what is done with Town office space?

RRL: Bottom line, Denis went to the Board of Selectmen.

RVD: It bothers me. I don't want to be part of something that looks unethical.

BJS: We discussed that if it became available, we would move over there.

RVD: I'm asking that everyone get on the same page. Are you aware that the Planning Board deciding to move benefits the chair?

RRL: Fine, I don't have to do the work. I can do other work; it doesn't matter.

RVD: It's just what I'm hearing.

RRL: I don't care; I'll not do it.

BJS: If somebody says to me, you made a decision to give the chairman work – I didn't. Roland can ask anybody. I don't think that's what we did.

SDC: What's the alternative?

RRL: That Paige and Beth stay right where they are.

BJS: No, the issue is that Denis Fraine and the Board of Selectmen approved the move.

RVD: I'm going against the tide here.

RRL: I'll just resign. This is ludicrous. I can talk to Denis about this.

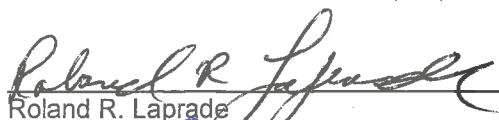
BJS: Why don't we seek Town Counsel opinion. If its coffee shop hype, let them talk.

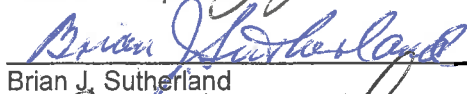
General conclusion was that RVD could ask an opinion of Town Counsel, and RRL could ask his boss, Denis Fraine.

EWG: Motion to adjourn.

BJS: Second. Vote: 5-0, Approved.

Minutes Accepted on: 12-13-2001
(date)


Roland R. Laprade


Brian J. Sutherland


Edward W. Guzowski


Richard V. Dill

Steven D. Choiniere, Sr.