

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2016

6:30 P.M.

Groveland Town Hall

183 Main St, Groveland, MA 01834

Attendance: Chair, Bill Dunn, Vice Chair, Ed Watson, Selectmen Daniel MacDonald, Bill O'Neil, and Mike Wood

Also Present: Finance Director, Denise Dembkoski

Chairman Dunn opened the meeting at 6:30 pm and asked the subject of the scheduled Executive Session, Mike Dempsey, if he wanted to have the meeting held in public. Mr. Dempsey said yes. Chairman Dunn then made an opening statement. "This meeting was scheduled as an Executive Session, under Mass General Law MGL Ch. 30A, Sec. 21 (a) (1) with Mr. Dempsey to discuss specific complaints brought against him, personally. It is Mr. Dempsey's decision to hold the meeting in a public setting, but as far as I'm concerned, it will retain the same format, as executive session style, only with an audience. Since this meeting is for complaints about Mike's specific actions, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 20(g), I do not plan to recognize anyone other than Mr. Dempsey and the Board of Selectmen to speak."

After some angry criticism and backlash against the Chair's statements, Selectman Wood read M.G.L. Ch. 30A, s 20(g): "No person shall address a meeting of a public body without permission of the chair, and all persons shall, at the request of the chair, be silent. No person shall disrupt the proceedings of a meeting of a public body. If, after clear warning from the chair, a person continues to disrupt the proceedings, the chair may order the person to withdraw from the meeting and if the person does not withdraw, the chair may authorize a constable or officer to remove the person from the meeting."

The meeting got underway and the Board asked Mr. Dempsey a series of questions:

- (a) Did you conduct a meeting of the Con. Comm. on July 13th date? Mr. Dempsey: Yes
- (b) Was notice of the meeting/agenda properly posted? Mr. Dempsey: Yes
- (c) Did the meeting conduct any business on the agenda for that date? Mr. Dempsey: No
- (d) What business did the meeting conduct? Mr. Dempsey: The Commission couldn't conduct any business because there wasn't a quorum
- (e) Did the meeting hold any votes or take any action? No
- (f) How many total members did the Con. Comm. have on the date of that meeting? Mr. Dempsey: 6 Members
- (g) How many were present at that meeting? Mr. Dempsey: The Chair and 2 other members were present.
- (h) Do you know what a quorum is? Mr. Dempsey: 4 members is a quorum
- (i) Did you have a quorum present at that meeting? Mr. Dempsey: We did not

Mr. Dempsey stated they had four hearing scheduled for July 13th and they were able to collect information from all parties that had public hearings. They let people speak and vent, so they

could be heard and others could hear their information. Anything done was administrative type work, only.

The Board informed Mr. Dempsey that a quorum had not been met several times in the past and they transacted business.

Selectman Watson stated at the meeting on July 13th, Mr. Dempsey stated that statements were taken and the other Conservation members could watch the video to follow the hearing and be brought up to speed. Chair Dunn stated that is unacceptable, he wanted the July 13th public hearing reheard with a formal quorum.

Mr. Dempsey said he would like to see something sent out to all boards outlining the regulations on quorum, so no one else finds them self in this situation.

The Board said they will have the Finance Director send something out.

Mr. Dempsey said he would like to keep the channels open with the Board of Selectmen and be able to have open lines of communication between the chairs. If there is a problem like this, the courtesy should be to have a gentlemen's conversation.

Chair Dunn said that is not always acceptable because his board members want to have their say, as well.

7:02 P.M.

Adjournment: The Board voted unanimously to adjourn based on a motion by Selectman Wood and a second by Selectman Watson.

True Attest:



Denise M. Dembkoski
Finance Director

**** Approved on a vote of 4-0-1, with Selectman MacDonald abstaining, on September 6, 2016 ****