



Wednesday, November 29, 2016  
Tri-Board/Select Board Meeting Minutes  
Hadley Town Hall - Room 203 6:00 pm

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Select Board was held at 6:00 p.m. in the Hadley Town Hall, Room 203.

Present were: Molly Keegan, Chair; Joyce Chunglo, Clerk; Gerald Devine, Member; John Waskiewicz, Member, Donald Pipczynski, Member

Also present were: David Nixon, Town Administrator; Richard Trueswell, HPAT; Andrew Bombarder, Resident; Jason Galvin, Resident; Katherine Pipczynski, Resident; Taryn Harriman, Resident; Karen Czerwinski, Resident; Michael Mushenski, Resident; Michael Mason, Chief of Police; John Mieczkowski, Resident, Thomas Rooke, Attorney; Dan Dudkiewicz, Resident

### 1. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Molly Keegan.

### 2. Complaint

Molly Keegan reads a statement explaining that this is a continuation meeting and that the purpose of this meeting is that the Hadley Select Board received several complaints about Donald Pipczynski's behavior at the Young Men's Club on October 15, 2016 and the board called for an executive session on October 26<sup>th</sup>. At Mr. Pipczynski's request the board rescheduled the meeting for November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016. On November 1<sup>st</sup> the Board convened in executive session, Mr. Pipczynski stated that he wanted the matter held in open session and that request was granted. By letter to the town Attorney Thomas Rooke, counsel to Mr. Pipczynski, had requested another continuation to November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2016, the board granted that request and that has led us tonight. So the board now opens this meeting in open session as requested by Mr. Pipczynski and the topic of the meeting will be the events leading up to and including October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

The board expects to consider the written record of the events, the board does not expect to call witnesses. Here is a summary of the allegations concerning October 15<sup>th</sup>. The complaints allege that Mr. Pipczynski was working driving buses to transport students from Amherst to the Young Men's Club and back again on October 15<sup>th</sup>, at an called Oktoberfest was taking place. Shortly after 3 pm, Mr. Pipczynski, entered the grounds by showing a badge and claiming to be a police commissioner and not paying the cover charge of \$40.00. Mr. Pipczynski was confronted by club personnel, specifically Mr. John Mieczkowski, Jr., as Mr. Pipczynski membership had been terminated and he was asked to leave the grounds. Mr. Pipczynski claimed that he could be at the private event because he was a police commissioner and he had the right to inspect alcohol service. When spoken to by a Hadley Police Officer, Sgt. Mitch Kuc, Mr. Pipczynski continued to insist that he was a police commissioner and that he had a right to inspect alcohol service. Mr. Pipczynski left the grounds after speaking to the police officer, Sgt. Kuc. The Select Board then received a verbal complaint, 2 letters of complaint, and a statement by Sgt. Kuc.

This brings up to where we left things last time. Mr. Pipczynski, and his attorney Thomas Rook have requested that we postpone to this meeting so that they would have an opportunity to call witnesses.

Thomas Rooke states that a member of your board requested the witnesses be brought forward and hethat he requested a continuance so that those witnesses can be brought forward. Now it seems that those witnesses were not called and he feels that Mr. Pipczynski has the right to confront his accusers. I have several documents that prove that my client is a police commissioner and then distributes the mission statement of the Select Board and a photocopy of the badge. He then reads from page 2 of mission statement. He also states that there is already one matter in front of the ethics commission at this time. He then continues that he feels in his opinion that this a waste of time and money.

Donald Pipczynski then reads a statement explaining his actions and his many years of service to the Town of Hadley.

Molly Keegan questions the mission statement and the concept of enforcement and acting in the capacity of an enforcement officer.

Thomas Rooke states that he did not try to enforce anything.

Molly Keegan states that this not a personal attack, this is in response to a violation of the code of conduct, and the perception bullying. There are already 2 other instances that have been handled in executive session and this is showing a pattern of behavior.



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Donald Pipczynski states that Madame Chairwoman you are in violation of the Board of Ethics because you were not supposed to discuss the past. You have just violated the Ethics Commission Rules and Regulations again.

Molly Keegan disputes this fact and states that she spoke to Attorney General's Office and the State Ethics Commission before the meeting the tonight.

Joyce Chunglo states that she feels that Donald misused the badge and that was not the purpose of the badge.

Further general discussion over the badge and for use of the badge by the Select Board.

Gerry Devine states that this is about the Code of Conduct and the fact that the Select Board does not act as individuals but as a board. If a member is unhappy then they bring it to the board to be discussed professionally by the board.

John Waskiewicz makes a motion to close this hearing with no finding.

Motion: Waskiewicz      Second: Pipczynski  
Vote: 2-3-0

Motion failed.

Molly Keegan offers different options for the Select Board for how to go forward as a board.

Gerry Devine recommends sending it to the State Ethics commission and let an independent party render a decision.

Motion to send it to the Ethics Commission  
Motion: Devine      Second: Pipczynski  
Vote: 3-2-0

Motion to adjourn:

Motion: Chunglo      Second: Devine  
Vote: 5-0-0

Meeting was adjourned at 6:32 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Sanders James