

**Official**

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
Special Meeting  
Wednesday, August 1, 2007**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman P. Loiselle called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**PRESENT:** David F. Dickson (excused), William "Bill" Gahara, James Gorton, Jason Hyde, George Longfellow, David Ross, Patricia Rueppel, Stuart Werksman, Chairman Paul Loiselle

**ALSO PRESENT:** Debra Weiss Ford, (Devine Millimet)

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council Disqualification to Hear the Post-Termination Appeals

**J. Gorton moved to vote on Atty. Meyer's request for the Town Council to disqualify itself from deliberating on this matter based on his argument that a conflict of interest exists. Motion seconded by S. Werksman.**

**Roll Call:**

W. Gahara	Abstained	D. Ross	No		
J. Gorton	No	P. Rueppel	Abstained		
J. Hyde	No	S. Werksman	No		
G. Longfellow	No	Chairman P. Loiselle	No	0-6-2	<b><u>Motion failed.</u></b>

Bonsteel Post-Termination Appeal Decision

**G. Longfellow moved to reinstate Michelle Bonsteel without back pay, with a letter of reprimand. Motion seconded by J. Gorton.**

**D. Ross moved to amend the motion to include back pay. Motion seconded by J. Gorton.**

D. Ross: I don't see how we could reinstate her without offering the back pay.

**Roll call vote to amend the motion:**

W. Gahara	Abstained*	D. Ross	Yes		
J. Gorton	Yes	P. Rueppel	Abstained*		
J. Hyde	No	S. Werksman	Yes		
G. Longfellow	No	Chairman P. Loiselle	Yes	4-2-2	<b><u>Motion carried.</u></b>

(\*Did not attend the public hearing.)

J. Hyde: As a business decision, which is how I looked at this from the beginning, I don't think it would be wise to reinstate a department head who behaved the way Ms. Bonsteel did. She admitted joking about it with contractors who come to Town to do business. To me, that is completely unprofessional, completely uncalled for. I believe it was done with intent to undermine the authority of the Town Administrator. It would be unwise to reinstate her in her position.

D. Ross: Because of her limited time with the Town. She's only been with the Town for two years. I perceived that her actions were sort of normal, not normal, I hate when people use that term. Gossip is not normal. Today, I heard a sermon on gossip. There's nothing good or simple, or its no small thing what occurred. It is a very serious thing. However, I perceive her actions to be that of pecking order.

**Roll call vote on the amended motion:**

W. Gahara	Abstained*	D. Ross	Yes	
J. Gorton	Yes	P. Rueppel	Abstained*	
J. Hyde	No	S. Werksman	Yes	
G. Longfellow	Yes	Chairman P. Loiselle	Yes	5-1-2 <b><u>Motion carried.</u></b>

Chairman P. Loiselle: I would request that our Legal Counsel, Debra Ford make it known immediately that Michelle Bonsteel has been fully reinstated as the Town's Code Enforcement Officer.

Piper Post-Termination Appeal Decision

**D. Ross moved to reinstate Sandy Piper. Motion seconded by G. Longfellow.**

D. Ross retracted his original motion. G. Longfellow retracted his second.

**D. Ross moved to reinstate Sandy Piper with back pay and a letter of reprimand. Motion seconded by G. Longfellow.**

J. Hyde: I reiterate what I stated previously. A department head behaving the way she did is simply unacceptable. It's not professional. It is destructive. It undermined the authority of the Town Administrator, which could bring harm to the Town. I strongly urge the Council not to reinstate Sandy Piper.

D. Ross: I had to make the motion. It's the only way to put it on the table to be discussed. Sandy Piper does not have the same defense that Michelle Bonsteel has. Sandy Piper has been a long-term employee. Based on everything I see, heard and read, I find that the termination of Sandy Piper was warranted.

**Roll Call:**

W. Gahara	Abstained*	D. Ross	No	
J. Gorton	No	P. Rueppel	Abstained*	
J. Hyde	No	S. Werksman	No	
G. Longfellow	No	Chairman P. Loiselle	No	0-6-2 <b><u>Motion failed.</u></b>

Request for Evidentiary Hearing

**S. Werksman moved to table the evidentiary hearing. Motion seconded by J. Hyde.**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn F. Horn  
Administrative Assistant