

## Town Of Newbury

Office of

The Board of Assessors  
25 High Road  
Newbury, MA. 01951-4799  
(978) 465-0862 x308  
Fax: (978) 465-3064

Frank "Budd" Kelley, Chairman, Board of Assessors  
Sanford "Sandy" Wechsler, Assessor  
E. Peter Murphy, Assessor

Michelle Branciforte, MAA, Principal Assessor  
Cathy McCoy, Assessors Clerk

March 18, 2014      Open Session Meeting Minutes

Present:                    T. Blais, B. Kelley, S. Wechsler, E. Peter Murphy, M. Branciforte

The meeting opened at 6:02 p.m.

Budd opened the meeting by asking how many applicants were considered for the Assessors Clerk position. Tracy stated we had five applicants who qualified, three were interviewed, two were a no show. Budd stated that he is confused by the fact that he was not involved in the hiring process. Peter reminded everyone that at the last meeting with Tracy, when the re-assignment discussion took place, Peter stated that the BOA should not be involved in any hiring process, as it can present certain problems and can be viewed as a conflict of interest. Peter also stated that from his many years of experience of serving on different boards, the BOA staying out of the hiring process is the best policy. Sandy stated that, while he understood and appreciated Peter's position on hiring, that position had never, to his knowledge, been one that the Board as a whole had agreed to as a matter of policy. At this point Tracy said that based on the fact that there have been two prior instances of breach of confidentiality, Tracy felt she did not want to take a third chance.

Budd said he felt disrespected and Tracy has no proof the confidential information came from him, it could have come from a number of other people. Sandy stated that at the re-assignment meeting, Budd expressed interest in being a part of the interviewing process, and Tracy agreed to it. Tracy's response was that she became aware of the second instance of breach of confidentiality shortly after the re-assignment meeting, and decided it was in the best interest of the town to handle personnel issues without involving the BOA. Budd asked why another member of the BOA was not asked to participate in the hiring process, instead of him. Tracy stated that Peter made it perfectly clear the BOA should stay out of any hiring process, and to allow Tracy to handle personnel issues such as hiring, as specified in her contract. Tracy did not think another BOA member was interested in the hiring process, as Budd was the only member to express an interest at the re-assignment meeting.

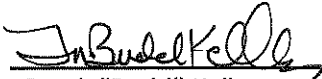
Tracy concluded her part of the meeting.

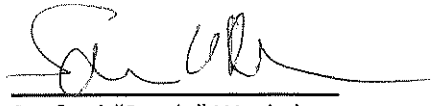
Budd, Peter, Sandy and Michelle reviewed minutes from March 11, 2014 Open and Executive Session meeting. Minutes were approved and signed.

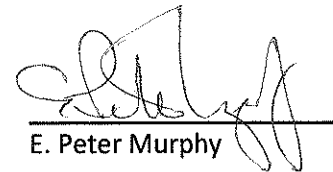
The next meeting date will be scheduled for March 25, 2014.

At 6:17 p.m. Budd motioned to adjourn the meeting and enter Executive Session. Sandy seconded the motion.

All were in favor.

  
Frank "Budd" Kelley

  
Sanford "Sandy" Wechsler

  
E. Peter Murphy