

Board of Selectmen
February 1, 1994
Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairwoman Carolina Kiggins in the Library Meeting Room. Selectmen present included John Ryerson, Barbara Fegan, Robert S. Costa and David Ernst. Town Administrator, Julia Enroth, also attended.

The Board met with the Board of Fire Engineers. Members included Chairman Richard Butterfield, William Corcoran, Larry Mott and Michael Seiser. Chairwoman Kiggins stated that a) the meeting would adjourn at 9:00 p.m. and if business was not concluded by that time another meeting would be scheduled to continue the discussion, b) the purpose of the meeting was to determine the next step in determining a procedure for addressing concerns regarding the Fire Department, c) discussion would be limited to members of the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Fire Engineers until the Boards concluded their business at which time they would take comments from the audience and d) discussion would be objective and would not include discussion of any individuals.

Discussion included:

- a) bids received for the Fire Department Assessment RFP - one bid received for \$13,150 (\$7,500 available in the Consultancy Budget)
- b) an open RFP for assessment of the Fire Department with the consultants deciding areas of concentration
- c) an in-house assessment (perhaps in conjunction with a mediator performing interviews)
- d) confidentiality of the interviews
- e) financing the study - suggestions included 1) an override 2) a transfer from available funds via Special Town Meeting 3) a transfer from the Reserve Fund (the Town Administrator noted that these funds are only for emergencies)
- f) who should have input into the study (i.e. members of the department, townspeople)
- g) timing/continuity in relation to the upcoming election
- h) the last Blue Ribbon Report (independent) and the Bennett and Shaw Report
- i) an Annual Town Meeting Warrant article for funding the assessment of the department
- j) a sub-committee consisting of members of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Fire Engineers, Fire Department and the public performing the assessment
- k) suggestions from the audience of lines of inquiry for the assessment (a list was prepared)

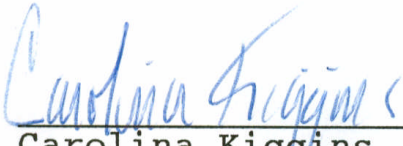
Ann Bronsdon submitted a document to the Board which, she stated, contained a list of complaints from members of the Fire Department. Fire Chief Henson noted that a list of problems had been compiled within the Department and that members had been assured that it would be kept confidential within the Department. Fire Chief Henson asked that any such document be kept confidential.

There was a consensus of the Board that a) the Board of Selectmen will conduct an assessment of the Fire Department, b) parameters and specifics of the assessment will be determined at a future meeting and c) the Town Administrator will consult Town Counsel on the matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Smulligan
Administrative Assistant



Carolina Kiggins, Chr.



John Ryerson



Barbara Fegan

Robert S. Costa

David Ernst