

Board of Selectmen
Minutes
February 18, 1994

The meeting was called to order at 3:36 p.m. in the Library Conference Room by Chairwoman Carolina Kiggins. Selectmen present included John Ryerson, Barbara Fegan, Robert S. Costa and David Ernst. Town Counsel, Michael Ford, also attended.

The Board discussed various options available to them for pursuing an assessment of the Fire Department. Suggestions included:

- a) putting the matter on hold pending approval of funding for an outside assessment of the Fire Department at Annual Town Meeting
- b) doing nothing
- c) conducting an in-house study by the Board via:
 - 1) open sessions with the full board - possibly as interviews
 - 2) some form of a two Selectmen interview process with the procedure being reviewed by Town Counsel and the District Attorney's Office
 - 3) a facilitator or mediator delegated by the Board - suggestions included pursuing the services of a volunteer mediator (there is an organization of volunteer mediators on Martha's Vineyard and the towns of Truro and Provincetown have in-place mediators who do not charge citizens for services)
 - 4) a combination of interviews by the Board with people who wish to speak in public and the use of a mediator for those who wish to contribute confidentially - Town Counsel noted that the mediator would have to report to the Board in open session

Town Counsel discussed with the Board:

- a) the open meeting law and its ramifications
- b) correspondence and documents received in relation to the assessment
- c) the investigation of a town department - it could be conducted by the Board itself or could be delegated to a mediator
- d) the Procurement Law - procurement of mediation services would be exempt from Chapter 30B
- e) potential mediators he could suggest

On a motion by Fegan, seconded by Ryerson, the Board voted unanimously to delegate the review of the Fire Department to an appropriate, prepared and qualified mediator.

On a motion duly made and seconded, the Board voted unanimously to add an article to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for \$14,000 to fund an independent assessment of the Fire Department in the event that the Board of Selectmen is unable to secure the services of a mediator. There was a consensus of the Board that funding should be subject to an override.

Selectman Ernst stated that "putting it on the warrant does not mean that we are now individually obligating ourselves with respect to it at the time . . ."

There was a consensus of the Board to assemble a list of potential mediators and to select the best possible person as soon as possible.

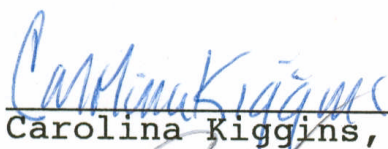
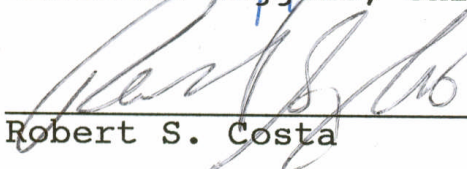
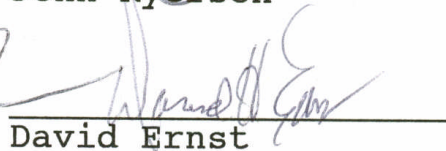
After discussion, there was a consensus of the Board that a working session discussion be scheduled with the Fire Chief and subsequently with the Police Chief in conjunction with the Town Administrator.

The meeting adjourned at 4:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Linda Smulligan
Administrative Assistant


Carolina Kiggins, Chr.
John Ryerson
Barbara Fegan
Robert S. Costa
David Ernst