

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
SPECIAL MEETING
January 13, 2009
(Subject to Approval)**

PRESENT: First Selectman H. William Davis, Jr.
Selectman Carol Hubert
Selectman Kenneth Kerin
Selectman Barbara McLaughlin
Selectman John Turk

ABSENT: Selectman Stuart Somers

ALSO PRESENT: Treasurer Bill Sarosky, Assistant to the First Selectman Jennifer Naylor, and IT Committee Member Jack Rutherford.

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Davis called the Special Meeting of January 13, 2009 to order at 8:34 a.m. in Room 208 of the Town Hall.

POLICE COMPUTER SYSTEM

First Sel. Davis reported on a January 5, 2009 meeting with State Police Commissioner Danaher and other members of the State Police at their headquarters attended by himself, Sel. Kerin, Town Attorney Bob Nastri, and Assistant to the First Selectman Jennifer Naylor. The State Police said that when Southbury had Nexgen it was Version 1 while the Nexgen System is now on Version 10 and, they maintained, a much more reliable system.

Jennifer Naylor had interviewed the towns of New Milford and East Lyme regarding their experiences with their current version of the Nexgen system. Ms. Naylor reported that, according to New Milford and East Lyme, the Nexgen system still does not work, has lots of glitches, and is unreliable.

Sel. Kerin had interviewed the towns of Montville and Ledyard. (Ledyard, like Southbury, does not currently have a signed contract with the State Police.) Sel. Kerin reported that, according to Montville and Ledyard, even with Version 10 the Nexgen System still has its problems.

A discussion ensued in which various points were made. It was pointed out that no town larger than Southbury was on the State Trooper system. Of the towns between 15,000 and 20,000 population, 15 are organized police departments and 6 are trooper towns. Of towns between 10,000 and 15,000 in population, 2/3 have organized police departments.

It was reported that Trumbull and Monroe, which have organized police departments, use Nexgen. But, they both say an IT person on staff is necessary with Nexgen.

There was some discussion of the costs of Nexgen and state trooper system versus the costs of an organized police department including the issue of town liability.

It was pointed out that even with an organized police department the state police would still provide services like major investigations.

There was discussion of reasons other than dissatisfaction with Nexgen for Southbury to create its own police department.

Sel. Turk left the meeting at 9:20 a.m.

There was further discussion of the police labor contract and staffing with respect to forming an organized police department.

The general consensus of the meeting was that the Hunt System would be upgraded in accordance with the Minutes of the September 18, 2008 Board of Selectmen Meeting and that further research will be done by the full Board as to the impact on the Town of establishing an independent police department. The Town Attorney, labor attorney, and criminal justice experts will be contacted as part of the Board's due diligence.

Upon a motion by Sel. Hubert, seconded by Sel. Kerin, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn at 9:57 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Bagger