

**BOARD OF SELECTMAN
SPECIAL MEETING
March 23, 2009
(Subject to Approval)**

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

ALSO PRESENT: Attorney Bill Ryan, Treasurer Bill Sarosky, and Assistant to the First Selectman Jennifer Naylor.

CALL TO ORDER

First Selectman Davis called the Special Meeting of March 23, 2009 to order at 8:38 a.m. in Room 208 of the Town Hall.

UNION CONTRACT

There was a discussion of the terms of the union contract.

Sel. Turk moved to approve the Agreement and the Memorandum of Agreement with Teamsters Local 677 and to authorize First Selectman H. William Davis, Jr. to sign same. Sel. Hubert seconded the motion. The motion was passed with all voting aye except Sel. McLaughlin who abstained.

INDEPENDENT POLICE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION

Sel. Kerin said the Board had to separate the how-to issues from the are-we-going-to-do-it issue. He noted that hiring a police chief will have to go to referendum. A May referendum might be too soon (the issue has to be explained to the town) and not enough voters would turn out if the referendum were a stand alone. Thus November might be best.

Sel. Somers said he needed more information about the costs. He said that similar towns in Connecticut with independent police departments had many more employees and cost a lot more. There

was a general discussion about personnel including the potential need for a deputy chief. Sel. Kerin said he did not think having an organized police department caused it to grow. He thought the Board of Selectmen could control any growth. Sel. Turk thought Southbury got by with fewer police partly because Southbury officers had broad training. They are not specialists. Sel. Kerin pointed out that seniors were a larger part of the population in Southbury than in other towns and that fact probably helped reduce the number of police officers needed.

First Sel. Davis said he thinks Southbury has already gone through its growth spurt. He also pointed out that Southbury probably could share police assets (such as a canine unit and a matron for female prisoners) with neighboring towns. Treasurer Sarosky pointed out that with a trooper Southbury never had to hold a prisoner. The State Police have always held Southbury's prisoners. Treasurer Sarosky noted that eventually Southbury was going to have its own organized police department.

Sel. Turk left the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Sel. Kerin noted that there would have to be town meetings on the issue of an organized police department. Sel. Hubert said that there was a lot of work to do in informing the town before any referendum. Reasons for and ramifications of the change to an organized police department and comparative costs will have to be explained to the town. There was additional discussion of the ramifications of changing to an organized police department. The question of liability was discussed.

There was some discussion about finding an unbiased expert to advise the Board of Selectman.

Sel. Kerin moved, seconded by Sel. McLaughlin, to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Bagger