

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SPECIAL MEETING  
March 30, 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:** Treasurer Bill Sarosky, Assistant to the First Selectman Jennifer Naylor, and Bob Lovell of the New Milford Police Department.

**CALL TO ORDER**

First Selectman Davis called the Special Meeting of March 30, 2009 to order at 8:36 a.m. in Room 208 of the Town Hall.

**INDEPENDENT POLICE DEPARTMENT DISCUSSION**

Sel. Turk introduced Bob Lovell of the New Milford Police Department. Mr. Lovell came to give the Board the benefit of his experience and advice. First Sel. Davis reviewed where matters stand now with respect to the state police and with respect to an independent police department.

It was noted that there is a pool of certified people available locally to be a chief of police. Mr. Lovell instanced several names.

There was discussion of what it meant to be certified to be a chief of police. Mr. Lovell said administrative officers (including chiefs) are certified police officers. They have to take administrative training to remain certified.

Sel. Somers mentioned his concern about independent police departments costing a lot more than state trooper departments. Mr. Lovell said that Resident State Trooper towns can lean on the state police for a lot of things that independent police departments cannot. He said organized police departments need more personnel such as a records clerk and a second in command. Sel. McLaughlin mentioned that Southbury already has two women who work in the police

department as clerks. There was considerable discussion of what personnel would be needed in an independent police department. There was discussion about whether or not a police commission (elected) would be needed to supervise the police department.

There was discussion about town liability with a state trooper versus with an independent police department. First Sel. Davis read an e-mail from the town's insurance broker saying, "The removal of the troopers [sic] will not affect the current pricing of the professional liability coverage currently written. It is our opinion that the limit of insurance purchased, in addition to the umbrella coverage [\$10 million], is reasonable based on the cost and the exposure for the Law enforcement department." Per Ms. Naylor further research on umbrella liability insurance for towns with independent police departments will be done.

The consensus of the Board was that if the town signed a contract with the state police for six or nine months and had to use the Nexgen system during that time, then the Hunt system would have to be used also to prevent a gap in records. There would have to be dual entry of reports.

There was discussion of grants available to help with the cost of policing.

There was discussion of how to word the referendum question about hiring a chief of police and when to have the referendum. Sel. McLaughlin suggested having an open house at the recently renovated police station to show the facility to the town before the townspeople vote.

Mr. Lovell said that most towns hire a chief on a contractual basis – a certain number of years at a time.

First Sel. Davis reported that he will be meeting with some members of the State Police (at their request) on Thursday.

**Sel. Turk moved, seconded by Sel. Kerin, to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. All were in favor.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jocelyn Bagger