

**Board:** Board of Selectmen/ Water Commissioner's Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 04, 2020  
**Location:** Online Video/Audio Conference Pursuant to Governor Baker's Executive Order in Response to the COVID-19 State of Emergency

**Selectmen Present:** William Bembury, Jacob Smith, Peter Sanders  
**Also, Present:** Bryan Smith, Christopher Blair  
**Press:** Max Marcus, Greenfield Recorder

At 6:32 PM **Chairman Smith** called the meeting to order.

**Chairman Smith** explained that the meeting is being recorded and provided an overview of the functions of the video/audio conferencing platform.

#### **Discussion Regarding Town Response to COVID-19**

**Chairman Smith** explained that there was no update on COVID-19 at this time.

#### **Executive Session**

At 6:33 PM **Chairman Smith** made a motion to enter Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual and to enter Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the New England Police Benevolent Association if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body, which I do so declare. The Board will return to regular session. **Selectman Bembury** seconded. A roll call vote was taken:

<b>Chairman Smith</b>	Aye
<b>Selectman Bembury</b>	Aye
<b>Selectman Sanders</b>	Aye

At 8:02 PM **Chairman Smith** resumed the regular session of the meeting.

#### **Discussion of Organization of the Police Department**

**Selectman Bembury** made a motion to appoint Sergeant Robert Holst as Acting Chief of Police and to designate Bryan Smith, Town Administrator, and Jacob Smith, Chairman, to notify Sergeant Holst of the appointment. **Selectman Sanders** seconded. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

#### ***Discussion Regarding Search for a Permanent Chief of Police***

**Chairman Smith** explained that the Board will need to begin the discussion of how to proceed with a search for a permanent Chief of Police. **Chairman Smith** suggested that the Board may want to secure the services of a consultant like they did for the Administrative Coordinator search. The Board members expressed agreement.

**Selectman Bembury** explained that he would like Sergeant Holst to provide an understanding of what departmental staffing issues will exist and recommendations on how to address them. **Chairman Smith** expressed agreement. The Board discussed wanting to meet with Sergeant Holst for regular check-ins. **Selectman Bembury** requested that the meeting with Sergeant Holst occur sooner than later. The Board

expressed agreement. Bryan will prepare a communication to be sent to all Town staff about the appointment and changes at the Police Department.

Max Marcus, Reporter with the Greenfield Recorder, asked if Christopher Blair, Chief of Police, has left employment with the Town. **Chairman Smith** explained that Christopher Blair is on leave effective immediately for an undetermined amount of time and that Sergeant Holst has been appointed as Acting Chief of Police. Max asked if the Board plans to begin a search for a permanent Chief of Police. **Chairman Smith** explained that the Board will need to hire a permanent Chief of Police. **Chairman Smith** explained that the timeline is dependent on a variety of factors. Max asked if the Board could provide a reason for the leave of absence. Bryan answered that the Town cannot provide a reason for the leave at this time. **Selectman Bembury** and **Chairman Smith** added that the leave is not related to a disciplinary or administrative reason.

#### **Adjournment**

At 8:12 PM **Selectman Bembury** made a motion to adjourn. **Selectman Sanders** seconded. **Vote:** Unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Bryan Smith  
Town Administrator