

SELECTMEN'S MEETING MINUTES TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2008

PRESENT: Selectmen Maxfield, Ives, and Bowles. Also present Fire Chief Jeffrey Burr, and Deputy Fire Chief Rick Wright.

Chairman Maxfield called the meeting to order at 6:30 P.M.

- I. Selectman Ives moved to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 19, 2008 as written. Second by Selectman Bowles. Majority vote in favor. Motion carried.
- II. Selectman Bowles moved to approve the Selectmen's Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 26, 2008 as written. Second by Selectman Maxfield. Majority vote in favor. Motion carried.
- III. Chairman Maxfield stated, for the record, that two pistol permits were signed for approval.
- IV. The Selectmen met with Fire Chief Jeff Burr and Deputy Chief Rick Wright.
 - a. Chief Burr presented a letter requesting the appointment of John Reese to the vacant position of full time Firefighter/EMT, effective March 24, 2008 at the hourly rate of \$18.00 per hour pending the required medical physical evaluation. Chief Burr stated Mr. Reese has also requested that he be allowed to take vacation time this summer, and would like the Board to approve a waiver to the town's personnel policy, which prohibits annual leave being taken during the one year probationary period. Selectman Ives moved to reinstate John Reese as a full time Firefighter/EMT effective March 24, 2008 at the hourly rate of \$18.00 per hour. Second by Selectman Bowles. Selectman Ives stated he felt the Board could approve the waiver for one week's paid vacation during the probationary period. All in favor. Motion carried.
 - b. Chairman Maxfield asked if Chief Burr had anything further to discuss. Chief Burr said he had a letter he would like read into the record:

Dear Selectmen,

I am writing this letter and am here tonight because of the *Emergency Management Report* signed by Sigrid Little and Greg Wells as it appears in the *2007 Town of Loudon Annual Report*.

I am appalled that this report was **written, authorized by the Selectmen, printed, and is being distributed** to the townspeople to read.

The unfortunate consequences of this report of the Fire and Police Departments are yet to be realized by the authors and the Selectmen of the Town of Loudon. The stigma that this document inaccurately places on the Departments will take a long time for the hard-working personnel of each Department to overcome.

This is not the first time that Sigrid Little has ATTACKED ME in the arena of town meeting. Several years ago, she and others distributed written information at town

meeting that was both inaccurate and libelous. An investigation was called for and conducted — and the Selectmen chose to do nothing.

This is also not the first time the Office of Emergency Management, under the leadership of Sigrid Little, has downgraded the Fire and Police Departments in official documents.

In this report, Sigrid is taking credit for the hard work of other people. She was invited to the **Unified Command Post** that I worked very hard to pull together. To the date of this report, she does not know the difference between a Unified Command Post, Incident Command Post, and an Emergency Operations Center. This does not say much for the Emergency Management Director after three years. The publishing of this report also shows that Sigrid cannot work with others and has minimal respect for the professionals who work so hard to serve the Town of Loudon.

This report is signed, “Respectfully submitted.” I see no respect for any person or department in this negative report.

She also indicates she had something to do with the CIPP Grant that Bob Krieger and Bill Lake worked so hard on with **no help from Sigrid Little**.

With this being said, I am calling for the Selectmen of the Town of Loudon to remove Sigrid Little from her position of Emergency Management Director and take all actions at their disposal to minimize the impact of this Annual Report.

Sincerely, Jeffrey A. Burr, Sr. *Chief, Loudon Fire Department*

- b. Chairman Maxfield said the Board relied on the department heads to submit their reports in a concise and accurate format. Selectman Ives stated he questioned whether the Selectmen have reviewed the reports prior to printing the annual report and was advised by Office Manager Jean Lee that they had in years past, but not recently. The Board said they will be reviewing all submissions to the annual report from now on. Chief Burr said he felt the report from the Cate Van Committee was also very negative and many people donated time and materials to get the garage built. He said he did not feel the annual report was the place to air negative comments. Selectman Ives said he agreed and the Board will discuss these issues and decide how to minimize the impact of these negative articles in the annual report. Chief Burr said he felt the Board should take action regarding these issues. The Board said Chief Burr will be informed of the decision once it is reached.

- V. The Board began their review of weekly correspondence.
 - a. The Board discussed the Board of Permit meeting that had been postponed to March 18 due to the first session of Town Meeting. Since DARE Pizza Night is on March 18, it was decided to cancel the March Board of Permit meeting.
 - b. The Board discussed a request from Fire Chief Burr to issue a letter to Merrimack Valley School District regarding insurance coverage for members of the Fire Department using the elementary school gym for dodge ball activities. Selectman Ives explained the request and the

Board decided to forward this information to Chief Burr for his review.

- c. Selectman Bowles discussed making arrangements for parking on School Street for the second session of Town Meeting on Saturday, March 15. Selectman Bowles said he would like to see one-way traffic on School Street from Oak Hill Road to North Village Road for that day and place signs restricting parking to only one side of the street. The Board agreed a barricade will be placed at School Street and Village Road, and an officer will be there to direct traffic.

Selectman Ives moved to adjourn at 7:26 P.M Second by Selectman Bowles. All in favor motion carried.

LOUDON BOARD OF SELECTMAN

Roger A. Maxfield, *Chairman*

Steven R. Ives, Selectman

Dustin J. Bowles, Selectman