

SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Thursday, April 13, 2006

On April 13, 2006, the Board of Selectmen held a meeting at 9:00 AM at the Town Office Building in Lakeville. The meeting was called to order by Chairman LaCamera at 9:02 AM. Selectmen present were: Selectman LaCamera, Selectman Yeatts and Selectman Evirs. Also present were: Rita Garbitt, Town Administrator and Tracie Craig, Executive Assistant.

Vote to sign Special Town Meeting Warrant-May 8, 2006

Chairman LaCamera read the Special Town Meeting Warrant into the record.

Upon a motion made by Selectman Yeatts, seconded by Selectman Evirs, the Board:

VOTED: To approve and sign the Special Town Meeting Warrant for May 8, 2006 to be held at Apponequet High School at 6:45 PM.
Unanimous vote.

Request for appointment of full-time firefighter

Chairman LaCamera read a request from Daniel Hopkins, Fire Chief, for appointment of a full-time firefighter. John Maloof, a full-time firefighter, is taking a position somewhere else. The proposed applicant is a current call firefighter. Chief Hopkins said that he had spoken to the Freetown Fire Chief at great length about the applicant. Lincoln Thibeault is a certified paramedic who has been on the Freetown force for four (four) years now. Selectman Yeatts asked if the other two (2) applicants had been interviewed. Chief Hopkins said no they were not because they did not have any firefighting experience.

Upon a motion made by Selectman Yeatts, seconded by Selectman Evirs, the Board:

VOTED: To approve the appointment of Lincoln Thibeault as a full-time firefighter/paramedic to the Fire Department. The appointment is subject to the successful completion of a PAT Test, physical and a six (6) month probationary period.

Discuss petition article-Annual Town Meeting

Cindy Dow, reporter from the Middleborough Gazette, asked Chairman LaCamera to discuss the petition that was submitted for the Annual Town Meeting to increase the number of Selectmen from three (3) to five (5). Selectman Yeatts responded that the first thing to consider is the money that this could cost the Town. Selectmen are paid \$3,000 a month and are entitled to health insurance, which could cost \$12-13,000 a year for health insurance. Chairman LaCamera stated that the current Selectmen's Office would not be big enough. Currently there are two (2) part time clerks: Leanne, who primarily works on the transfer station does other work when available, Pauline does Planning Board work. Chairman LaCamera questioned why people would want to make government bigger, it will cost more money. The workload strain on

this office will be huge. Selectman Yeatts noted that in other towns with five (5) member Boards, it is hard for them to come to some sort of an agreement. And its just not with Selectmen, it is with other Boards or Committees. She said that the Board of Selectmen has always presented a united front, which is a good thing for the Town; it's not in the best interest of the Town for boards to be fighting. Chairman LaCamera added that most other five (5) member Boards are also Boards of Health. The Town voted to take that burden off the Board of Selectmen and have a separate Board of Health. Also, having a five (5) member Board raises concerns about the Open Meeting Laws. Right now, I can't speak to one of them to vote, but with a five (5) member board, I can call one member and ask them how to vote. This happens in other communities all the time. Selectman Evirs noted that the Board has a Town Administrator to help with the workload. If it is a workload thing, we would be the ones to want to increase to a five (5) member board. Chairman LaCamera said we have pushed several issues, mainly the Master Plan and building projects. We chose to have a member of our Board to be represented on these committees. We weren't forced to do it; we make those decisions to participate. Ms. Garbitt noted that some of these five (5) member Boards are also water/sewer commissioners and rent control boards.

Adjournment

Upon a motion made by Selectman Yeatts, seconded by Selectman Evirs, it was unanimously:

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting at 9:17 AM.
Unanimous vote.