

**Town of Auburn
Board of Selectmen
May 14, 2018
Town Hall
6:00 pm**

Non-Public Session #3 of 3

UNSEALED – June 4, 2018

Selectmen Present: James Headd, Richard Eaton and Keith Leclair

Also Present: Road Agent Mike Dross, William Herman, Town Administrator and Nancy Hoijer, Recording Secretary

Non-Public Sessions pursuant to NH RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) (reputation of persons other than a board member)

At 7:48 pm Mr. Headd motioned to reconvene the non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) reputation of an individual other than a board member. Mr. Leclair seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken: Mr. Headd – yes; Mr. Eaton – yes; Mr. Leclair – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Road Agent Michael Dross appeared before the Board to address his complaints concerning Fire Chief Ed Gannon.

Mr. Dross advised the Board he was having difficulties with Chief Gannon because it was not spelled out in black and white who had authority in certain instances such as road closures and snow removal from the Safety Complex and cisterns.

Mr. Dross stated he simply needed direction from the Board as to who was to do what as he did not want to get into bigger issues or problems.

Mr. Eaton stated they needed to look at the RSA and possibly discuss this with someone at Eversource. Mr. Leclair opined Eversource was always going to err on the side of caution and liability. Mr. Leclair stated he read RSA 154 and it conflicted. Mr. Leclair stated they needed some advice. Mr. Herman indicated he understood RSA 154.7 puts the Fire Chief in charge, but he has requested input and clarification from the NH Municipal Association Legal Services team.

Mr. Dross shared an example of a road closure with a tree on a power line and the fire department had arrived and blocked the road to wait for Eversource. This occurred without notifying the Road Agent. The Road Agent was called by the Auburn Police and, when he attempted to speak with the Fire Chief on the scene, he walked past him.

Mr. Herman advised the key to the line of authority would lie in whether the Fire Department was called for service. It was his understanding that if the Fire Department is responding to a call, then the Fire Chief has the authority.

Mr. Dross opined that in the event of an emergency, such as an ambulance getting through, keeping the roads open can save valuable time and save lives.

Mr. Leclair asked about communications between the Chief and Road Agent, and Mr. Dross explained Chief Gannon carried his own phone and never answers it.

Mr. Leclair advised this should be addressed before the next storm season.

Mr. Dross updated the Board on the beaver situation and work to commence on Wilson Crossing, Lover's Lane and Bunker Hill and departed the meeting at 8:15 pm.

Mr. Leclair raised the issue concerning past warnings to the Chief concerning his three-year contract renewal and social media posts which were inappropriate when directed toward another department head or employee.

Mr. Headd expressed concerns about the way Chief Gannon handles people, procedures and guidelines he wrote himself.

Mr. Eaton agreed they needed to have Chief Gannon come in and wondered if they needed to flush out an underground movement that might be supporting reinstalling the prior Chief.

Mr. Herman stated next week they would meet with the office staff upstairs at 5:00 pm, could bring Gannon in at 6:00 pm and then meet with Budget Committee at 7:00 pm. The Board agreed with this schedule.

Mr. Eaton moved to come out of Non-Public Session at 8:20 pm, seconded by Mr. Leclair. A vote was taken, all were in favor, the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Leclair motioned to seal the minutes of the non-public session. Mr. Eaton seconded the motion, with all in favor, the motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Hoijer,
Recording Secretary