

Town of Ferrisburgh
Selectboard Special Meeting / Draft
September 2, 2016

Members present: Loretta Lawrence, Chair; Jim Benoit; Steve Gutowski; Michael Muir; and James Warden

Visitors: James Carroll, Town Attorney; Garrit Smits

6:00 pm – Loretta Lawrence, Chair, called the meeting to order. The purpose of this meeting was to confer with counsel in regard to Selectboard/ Treasurer duties.

Jim Carroll asked Garrit Smits if he wanted to share anything with the selectboard. Jim Carroll stated that the Treasurer was under no obligation to say or share anything. Garrit Smits stated that he really did not have anything to say. He stated that he only came to see if the meeting was going to be an open meeting, even though it was warned as probable executive session.

Loretta Lawrence shared some of the board's concerns with Garrit. She stated that the assistant treasurer continues to feel that she is not only doing her job as assistant treasurer, but that she also has had the added burden of having to do the job of treasurer for the past few months. The assistant treasurer feels that she cannot continue to do both jobs. She feels that duties/responsibilities are not being sufficiently performed in the treasurer's office.

The Chair also stated that the board did not have to offer Elected Officials medical insurance or a benefit package. However, the board did offer the Treasurer this generous benefit package, plus medical insurance, (fully funded by the town) with a salary equivalent to 35 (thirty-five) hours per week. The board did this in good faith, with the assumption that the Treasurer would reciprocate, in good faith, with providing the town with 35 hours of work, each week, and be available during operational hours of the clerk's office.

Jim Carroll asked the Treasurer if he had attempted to speak with the assistant treasurer, Pam Cousino, about the situation and issues. Counsel stated that the Treasurer was under no obligation to respond. The Treasurer stated that he had spoken with the assistant treasurer a little bit.

6:08 pm - Jim Benoit made the motion to go into executive session, stating that the Selectboard finds that premature general public disclosure of confidential attorney-client communications concerning professional legal services regarding the oversight duties of the Treasurer/Selectboard would put the Town and its employees at a substantial disadvantage.

Motion was seconded by Steve Gutowski. Motion passes.

6:09 pm -Michael Muir made the motion to go into executive session, inviting Jim Carroll, to confer with counsel and receive confidential attorney-client communications concerning Selectboard/Treasurer oversight duties.

Motion was seconded by Jim Benoit. Motion passes.

7:15 pm - Steve Gutowski made the motion to come out of executive session. Motion seconded by Michael Muir. Motion passes.

No action taken.

Respectively submitted,
James Warden, Board Clerk