

## Draft Minutes of the Police Advisory Committee 4/21/14

Attendance: Linda Clark, Jeanette Baker, Richard Inman. Guests included Kevin Sullivan and Kate Merchant, members who have resigned prior to this meeting. Also present: Chief Dupuis, and Select Board Member Mason Donovan. There were many townspeople in attendance. A list of may be viewed by any interested party.

Linda Clark, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 6:31.

Delinquent minutes of some of the past meetings were received by Chairperson Linda Clark. Some missing minutes were submitted by Kate Merchant, but did not appear to be posted. Kate will resubmit them at this time. Most of these minutes will be amended since there is much confusion about what has happened at prior meetings.

Therefore, the first item of business was the review of the previous minutes, and to amend as needed.

History: At the end of the Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> meeting an anonymous packet addressed to the PAC that had been opened and dated (at town hall) was delivered to the committee by Selectman Fanjoy. Linda Clark perused the packet and presented it at the Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting saying that the packet contained documents that were "old and had been dealt with years ago". Select Board Member Bruce Johnson stated that "we don't validate anonymous letters by accepting, reading or otherwise so it is determined that a non-written policy is to not accept anonymous letters. He suggested that the packet be thrown out and he and Lt. Mitchell then suggested that they be shredded vote to shred was taken. It should be noted that Lt Mitchell was not in uniform. Kevin Sullivan had arrived late and was not present at the vote as was Kate Merchant. The vote of 3 to 0 was to shred the documents.

Richard Inman wanted it to go on record that Linda had seen them prior (3 years ago) except for one which was a traffic complaint. Chief Dupuis never said the shred them as the Chief was not present at the 12/16/14 meeting. Richard Inman said in hindsight that all of these documents should have gone to the proper channels—the Chief for personnel issues or to the Select Board for complaints against the Chief.

The amendment for the 1/3/14 minutes will be "Select Board member Bruce Johnson and Officer Mitchell suggested that the documents should be shredded and not just be thrown away. Non shredded trash is not secure. Officer Mitchell was accompanied by his wife and they left soon after the decision to shred was made. The actual shredding was done by Richard Inman after Bruce Johnson opened the door to the room containing the shredder." Richard Inman moved the above be accepted as an amendment and added to the Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes. Linda Clark seconded. Motion carried. It is important to note that "the Chief never said to shred them."

The apology which was posted in the 4/1/14 issue of the GrapeVine should also be an amendment to the March 10<sup>th</sup> minutes: The committee discussed and agreed that Kevin Sullivan would write an apology letter for the Grapevine regarding the shredding. "To the Citizens of Webster. The Police

Advisory Committee apologizes for its participation in the reported shredding of the anonymous correspondence as referenced in the Police Advisory minutes dated 1/3/14. This committee has since adopted a strict protocol to ensure the review of any correspondence it might receive and the referral of same to the proper authorities for investigation if warranted; as referenced in the Police Advisory minutes dated 3/10/14. Our committee wants to assure the citizens of Webster of its commitment in the promotion of integrity, honesty and transparency.” Sincerely, The Police Advisory Committee

Someone in attendance at this meeting suggested that Richard acquiesced to the shredding. Then Richard stated that he accepted responsibility for only the shredding.

An informal “meeting” was held on 1/3/14 to tabulate the results of the survey which was drafted by the PAC and sent out with tax notices. The February meeting was canceled to accommodate the female members to attend a RAD (defense) course hosted by the Webster Police Dept. and put on by the Merrimack Sheriff Dept.

The topic of the shredding was put to rest because Chief Dupuis is conducting a criminal investigation of the shredding of the documents. The matter is now closed.

Linda Clark retracted her statement from the 3/10/14 meeting that “The Chief told us to shred papers.: She meant to say “He was aware that we had shredded them on 1/3/14.

The remainder of the meeting was a discussion of how the PAC can proceed. Communications have to be kept open. Definitions of: concern vs. complaint; policy; personnel vs. Chief issues; and goals of the committee; and the many faces of anonymity.

Submitted: 5/13/14

Jeanette Baker, acting secretary