

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL, BANQUET ROOM

MINUTES OF MAY 18, 2010

EXECUTIVE SESSION #1 OF 3

At about 6:34 pm, Mr. Heller called the first Executive Session to order giving reason #2 below:

(2) To consider the discipline or dismissal of, or to hear complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member, or individual.

Herbert Chaffee, Highway Superintendent

The Board reviewed five letters of complaint against the Highway Superintendent for an incident on Rice Corner Road on May 4th. The letters said that Mr. Chaffee was unprofessional and rude to them, suggesting that he hoped they would be taxed because a branch of a tree on their property fell across the road and took down power lines.

In the "Employee Progressive Discipline Policy" effective on December 1, 2002 behavior that is disrespectful or inappropriate toward a resident can be reason for actions by the Selectmen.

Mr. Chaffee gave his explanation of the event explaining that his initial comment to Ms. Dupre and others on her porch was a joke but had apparently not been taken that way. He said that he had to be on her property as it was the only way to get around the live wires and that the individuals on the porch had been asked several times by the police department to go inside but they did not. When Ms. Dupre began giving him a hard time and verbally threatened him, he called the police over and then went about his work.

This was his first interaction with Ms. Dupre although he had met her husband, Mr. Hammond a year or so ago.

Mr. Chaffee agreed to send Ms. Dupre a letter of apology and in the future Mr. Chaffee agreed to not say anything when in a situation like this again, to call in the police and to extricate himself from the situation as quickly as possible.

All three Selectmen told Mr. Chaffee that they appreciate the excellent work that he does, but that complaints from the public can tarnish the Department's otherwise excellent performance.

At about 7:00 pm, Mr. Allen moved to adjourn this Executive Session and proceed to Open Session to adjourn; Mr. O'Connell seconded. Mr. Allen voted aye; Mr. O'Connell voted aye; Mr. Heller voted aye; so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Neylon, Administrative Assistant

Date approved by Board: _____

Date Released: December 11, 2012