

**TOWN OF NORTHFIELD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL MEETING
Minutes of January 29, 2009**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Chair Roger LeClair, Selectmen Melvin Adams, Kenneth Johnson, Charles Morse, and Gregory Sanders. Also present were Thomas McCarney, John Cruickshank (*Northfield News*), Chris Bradley, Larry Drown (6:50 p.m.), Sally Davidson (6:55 p.m.), and Thatcher Moats (*Times Argus*) (7:45 p.m.).

Chair LeClair called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

- II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None.**

III. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- a. **Personnel.** The meeting was warned to discuss a personnel matter and Selectman Morse indicated that this topic was not the purpose of this meeting; he described the letter received by the State Attorney General and the actions by the Vermont Criminal Justice Training Council (future reference will be "Council") decertifying the Northfield Police Chief.

Thomas McCarney cautioned that the Selectboard is the final appeal source for personnel issues and is concerned that this meeting may compromise the process. Chair LeClair echoed that concern and Selectman Morse explained the end result will put the final decision in the hands of the Town Manager. The reason for this meeting is to obtain an understanding of the process and why Northfield was not part of the process even though the Attorney General commanded so. John Cruickshank questioned the Council's authority to make a decision outside of legislative action. Selectman Sanders feels the Council is reacting to the Attorney General's letter that damned the performance of their past enforcement. The discussion was turned over to the general public.

Larry Drown questioned if Northfield received federal or state money for training. Mr. Drown also demanded independent security for the Police Department and the Listers office.

Chris Bradley is concerned that the process regarding the Police Department involves a former employee who is disgruntled and attempting to find something on his former employer. Mr. Bradley continued that if the investigation by the Council could only discover an administrative error, the Selectboard should support the Police Chief.

Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Johnson, to go into executive session to discuss legal issues. Motion passed 5-0-0.

The Board went into executive session at 7:25 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Johnson, seconded by Selectman Morse, to come out of executive session. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

The Board came out of executive session at 7:45 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to request the Town Manager clarify why the Council removed Northfield from the disciplinary process regarding the Police Chief despite the State Attorney General's letter of January 22, 2009. **Motion passed 5-0-0.**

IV. ADJOURNMENT. Motion by Selectman Morse, seconded by Selectman Sanders, to adjourn. **Motion passed 5-0-0**

The Board adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Morse

Charles Morse, Acting Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting.