

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen  
Monday, June 29, 2015**

The North Brookfield Board of Selectmen met on Monday, June 29, 2015 in the Town Offices. Present were Selectman Eric Hevy, Chairman; Selectman Mary Walter; and Selectman Robert Smith. Mr. Hevy called the Meeting to Order at 9:30 AM.

At 9:32 AM, a motion was made by Ms. Walter, seconded by Mr. Smith, to enter Executive Session to discuss the character and reputation of two individuals being considered as finalists for the position of Chief of Police. Roll call: Mr. Hevy, yes; Ms. Walter, yes; Mr. Smith, yes.

The Board contacted, or attempted to contact, references provided by Mr. Randy Berg, and Mr. Mark Smith, after their interviews as finalists. Questions to be asked related to each candidate's professional qualifications, character, prior experience, management and budget experience, and overall ability to function as a Chief of Police in North Brookfield. The discussions were conducted by telephone, and utilized a speaker phone so each member of the Board could ask questions, and listen to responses, from the various references contacted.

At 9:35 AM Chief David Darren of the Spencer Police Department was contacted regarding Mr. Berg's application. In the course of the conversation, Chief Darren provided a positive reference for Mr. Berg. See attached.

At 9:42 AM, Chief Robert Parsons of the Spencer Fire Department was contacted, also about Mr. Berg's application. Chief Parsons provided positive comments about his past interactions with Mr. Berg, and indicated he would highly recommend him for the position. See attached.

At 10:00 AM, Chris Martin, the Town Administrator of Granby, Massachusetts was contacted about Mr. Mark Smith's application. Also present with Mr. Martin for the discussion were Granby Selectman and former Police Chief Louis Barry, and Alan Bouchard, the current Police Chief in Granby. At the conclusion of the lengthy discussion with the Board, the three individuals indicated that they would recommend Mr. Mark Smith for the position as Chief of Police. See attached.

At 10:30 AM, Mr. James Phaneuf, a Belchertown businessman, offered as a personal reference by Mr. Mark Smith, was contacted. He offered an extensive assessment of Mr. Mark Smith's personal and professional qualifications, his involvement in local affairs, and his general reputation in the community. Mr. Phaneuf displayed extensive knowledge of the candidate's qualifications, and recommended him for the position in North Brookfield. See attached.

Efforts to reach a member of the Spencer Board of Selectmen for a discussion of Mr. Berg's qualifications were unsuccessful. The Board was also unable to contact retired Police Chief Philip Adams, and Granby Fire Chief Russell Anderson, both of whom were offered as professional references by Mr. Mark Smith. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that Ms. Walter would continue efforts to contact the Spencer Selectmen to obtain references for Mr. Berg, and Mr. Hevy would attempt to contact Chief Adams and Chief Anderson to discuss Mr. Mark Smith's application, prior to the next evening's regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen.

There being no further business before the Board of Selectmen, a motion was made by Ms. Walter, seconded by Mr. Smith, to exit the Executive Session. Roll call: Mr. Hevy, yes; Ms. Walter, yes; Mr. Smith, yes. The Executive Session was adjourned at 12:28 PM.

In open session, a motion was made by Ms. Walter, seconded by Mr. Smith, to adjourn the meeting of the Board of Selectmen. The vote was unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 12:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Smith