

**BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES**  
**December 14, 2018 3:30 p.m.**  
**Rumford Municipal Building Conference Room**

***PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS MUST BE ADDRESSED FROM THE  
PODIUM FOR DIGITAL RECORDING PURPOSES. PLEASE RAISE YOUR HAND TO BE  
RECOGNIZED  
BY THE CHAIRPERSON OR COME TO THE PODIUM.***

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag
3. § MRSR: Title 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, Section 405-6A, Personnel Matter

Mr. Chase started meeting asking Board Chairperson the reason this meeting was constituted as an Emergency Meeting.

Mr. Brennick explained he was asked by the Board to hold this meeting.

Mr. Chase expressed, there was not adequate time frame in which to prepare and this does not seem at all an appropriate situation, in his opinion.

Mr. Brennick expressed several members of the Board requested a "rushed" meeting to address lingering issues.

Mr. Chase expressed no time frame was given and in his opinion, this does not constitute an "Emergency" Meeting.

Mr. Belanger expressed, "there is stuff that needs to be handled."

Mr. Chase interjected again, there in no time frame or deadline associated with this. Does not constitute an "Emergency", in his opinion.

Mr. Brennick explained that he would not take comments from the audience on this topic.

Town Manager expressed, "she was not provided adequate time to arrange legal representation", was given less than 24 hours-notice, of this meeting. She understood this was a meeting regarding a "personnel matter" being the only person invited to the meeting, assumed it was related to herself. She explained that she is present for the meeting. But, does not believe she was given her right to allow her time to arrange for legal representation.

Town Attorney expressed, Town Manager has the right for legal representation. If Town Manager requests this meeting be rescheduled, to allow for her to have legal -council present; is within her rights. The Board then would be obligated to reschedule.

Mr. Chase made the motion to suspend the hearing until Town Manager has adequate legal representation. Making sure this proceeding is legal, not putting the Town in jeopardy.  
Seconded by Mr. Brennick

Mr. Brennick asked Town Attorney for legalities surrounding this meeting. She expressed the proper terminology would be for the Board to “adjourn” the meeting until Town Manager has legal representation.

Mr. Chase amended his motion. Made the motion to adjourn the meeting until Town Manager has proper legal representation.

No discussion allowed on this motion.

Vote-1 Mr. Chase-4

Mr. Chase reiterated that he is opposed to this meeting; possibly opening this issue and the Town for a law suit.

Town Attorney clarified any possible options once in Executive Session after some discussion, the Board may decide to suspend this meeting.

Mr. Brennick asked for a motion to go into Executive Session.

Mr. Belanger made the motion. Seconded by Mr. Windover.

Vote-4-1 Mr. Chase opposed

Mr. Belanger read the agenda aloud.

Mr. Brennick asked audience to vacate the conference Room at 3:42 p.m.

Board out of Executive Session at 4:34 p.m.

Mr. Windover made the motion to suspend the Town Manager with pay pending Town Manager obtaining legal representation

Town Attorney reminded the Board that a hearing would need to be in place with this motion.

Mr. Windover rephrased his motion. Motion to suspend the Town Manager with pay to allow Town Manager to obtain legal representation to prepare for a future hearing. Seconded by Mr. Belanger

Mr. Chase again, in his opinion Town Manager has not committed any crime or anything that warrants a suspension. Communication is the issue; which can be worked on and rectified. In his opinion, this Board is not willing to work on these matters and he opposes this method of reprimand.

Town Attorney informed the Board, Town Manager has right to have people present at the hearing to testify on her behalf. She also, has the choice whether it be an open or closed hearing.

Mr. Brennick opened to public discussion-

Chief Stacy Carter, spoke in regards to legalities regarding this meeting and in strong support of Town Manager. He expressed that she has gone above and beyond getting departments to work together; running very smoothly in her tenure. He went on to say that this is the first time in many years that the Town is actually moving forward.

BOS SPECIAL MEETING APPROVED 12 20 2018

Jolene Lovejoy addressed Mr. Belanger being responsible in one way or another for the dismissal of several previous Town Managers. She suggested that he has an agenda, seeing to it that previous Town Managers have been let go. She mentioned that Mr. Belanger sued the Town in the past. She spoke of the damage being done to the Town with this... Hurting Rumford's reputation, suggesting ego/power issues by the Board. She expressed exasperation the Board allowed this meeting to continue without the Town Manager having legal representation present; putting the Town at risk and in jeopardy financially...

George O'Keefe, Jr. addressed regarding legalities and the responsibilities of the Board in regard to the public. He spoke of Federal Law regarding "Honest Services" Fraud.

Doug Maifeld addressed the Board in strong support for Town Manager. Her excitement for the growth of the Town and moving it forward, as well as, her strong and positive interaction with ALL departments/employees of the Town. He has not seen this from any Town Manager in the 31 years he has worked for and in the Town.

Josanne Dolloff addressed the Board expressing that in attending Board Meetings and viewing them on television, she hears questions being asked by the Board and the public with no answers forthcoming from the Town Manager. She hopes that whatever is going on... can be addressed and we can move forward from here, without overstepping and undermining...

Town Attorney corrected Ms. Dolloff twice on inaccurate facts that she presented to be truth.

Beth Bellegarde addressed the Board. Spoke in strong support of Town Manager as a person and a leader. She stands behind/ supports Town Manager 110% and has strong faith and pride in her abilities to run the Town.

Mr. Chase asked for Town Attorney explained the process regarding the Board of Assessors and the process involved in revaluation.

Town Attorney suggested this request is not the topic of this meeting.

Mr. Brennick reiterated the motion before the Board.

Margaret "Peggy" Collette spoke in strong support for Town Manager. Her strong work ethic, her devotion to the Town- the people, the businesses and to any and all Town employees. Spoke of embarrassment, disgrace and appall for the way some elected officials in the Town conduct themselves. In her opinion, to risk losing this Town Manager would be an incredible injustice to the Town and this area.

Jolene Lovejoy apologized for singling out Mr. Belanger. She has worked with him in the past and "I know how you operate". She mentioned social media and the strong misuse of this forum by Town Officials. She reminded the Board that post, comments, personal attacks/degrading comments regarding disabilities relating to Town employees, Town officials etc, for the social media pages were saved, copied and printed. She expressed these would be published for the Town's people to see.

Margaret "Peggy" Collette spoke of lack of support from the Select Board in regards to the Town Manager and Town employees. In her opinion, these issues seem to be related to personality conflicts and personal agendas rather than issues that affect this Town and its' citizens as a

whole. In her opinion, approx. 15 people seem to know more about managing Town than a highly educated individual with a degree in Municipal Management...

Ms. Casey asked if written materials from individuals would be accepted by the Board.

Town Attorney explained that only the Board and Town Manager are allowed to submit written materials. There have been no written complaints from the public; this issue has been generated by the Select Board.

Mr. Brennick again, reiterated the motion ...

Vote-2-2-1 It appeared that Mr. Pepin abstained- then asking "Give me a second"

Mr. Chase expressed "there was a motion and it was a tie vote, the motion fails."

Mr. Pepin expressed, "I haven't voted yet, I didn't raise my hand to abstain."

Mr. Brennick expressed, "I'm going to call for a vote again, as some people didn't vote. I need everybody to vote at this time."

Mr. Brennick again, reiterated the motion...

Vote-3-2 Mr. Brennick and Mr. Chase opposed

Mr. Brennick made a motion to add an additional Executive Session to the agenda. Pursuant to MRS, Title 1, Chapter 13, Subchapter 1, Section 405 6-A- A Personnel Matter. Seconded by Mr. Belanger

Mr. Chase expressed his strong disagreement to the added item. Explaining the lack of any emergency that requires immediate attention. Adding, the agenda was posted and the public was present for this meeting, "to amend it at this point, I think is wrong."

Town Attorney and Mr. Chase both asked the purpose of this second Executive Session and who will be discussed in this additional session. Town Attorney seemed confused as to this motion.

Mr. Brennick suggested discussing a person to act in Town Manger's absence.

Town Attorney expressed it not requiring an Executive Session item. There is a process...

Mr. Brennick again, asked for a private discussion, in Executive Session, to discuss options for a temporary person; explaining it needs to be a Town Official.

Town Attorney read the official procedure and process per the charter and the ordinances, in Section 3

Mr. Brennick again, regarding Executive Session.

Town Manager suggested waiting and speaking with people prior to an open session.

Mr. Brennick amended his motion to, regarding legal matter not a personnel matter. Mr. Belanger again seconded the motion

Vote-? No vote count was given by the Chairperson, however; it was said that they would be going into Executive Session at 5:04 p.m.

8. Adjournment

Christopher Brennick  
Select Board Chairperson

CB;pc