

Selectmen's minutes of meeting April 13, 2021

Members present: Brian O'Rourke, George Riley, Mark Newman, Joanne Grybosh, Dolores Harasyko, Admin. Asst., Fire Chief Ralph Morrison, Police Chief Michael Morrison, Michael Johnson

Called to order at 6:04 p.m.

Michael Johnson requested that the meeting be held in an open session not in an executive session.

Brian confirmed with Mr. Johnson that this is in an open session not in an executive session per Mr. Johnson's request. Mr. Johnson confirmed and stated that he provided written documentation to the Town Manager Joanne Grybosh that he wanted this to be an open meeting.

Brian confirmed that Mr. Johnson received a letter dated April 8, 2021 regarding this meeting. Brian read aloud the letter again confirming an open session instead of executive session.

Brian asked if George, Mark, Ralph or Mike had any questions at this time, they all responded they did not.

Mark stated that the town has gone too long without someone in the Public Safety Officer position. George agreed, most visibly is regarding the ambulance agreement with the Town of Tolland. We are unable to fulfill the agreement.

Brian noted that we have received letters from Mr. Johnson stating that Dr. Sprague said he could return to work August 2021.

Brian noted that several of the documents from Mr. Johnson are not signed from the Berkshire Health System and Berkshire Medical Center. Mr. Johnson responded that they are electronically signed.

Motion by Mark to move forward with the termination of employment.

Discussion followed.

Mr. Johnson asked for the hearing. Brian stated that it would come after the motion. Mr. Johnson stated that he feels decisions have already been made. Brian responded that that is not true. Mr. Johnson discussed his issues regarding pain throughout this process. The Town accepted an independent third party opinion that stated Mr. Johnson could return to work. On Dec. 9, 2020 Mr. Johnson requested an unpaid medical leave. He states that he met with the Town Manager for a medical leave and that the Dec. 9 meeting was for termination. He stated that at that meeting it was stated that we would revisit on Jan. 29, 2021. Instead he had a scheduled Covid test on Jan. 29, 2021 and couldn't meet with the town. The Town Manager was contacted to meet before Jan. 29, 2021, Mr. Johnson did not provide any updates other than he had surgery

scheduled for Feb. 1, 2021. Brian reviewed that all updates provided did not give a return to work date.

Mr. Johnson does not feel the selectmen have protected him, he was injured at work.

Brian reviewed that the independent doctor deemed that he was okay to go back to work. Mr. Johnson responded that he could not because of the medications he is on.

Motion by Mark to proceed with the termination, second by George, passed unanimously to terminated Michael Johnson effective immediately.

Roll call vote: Brian, yes, Mark, yes, George, yes.

Michael Johnson wants a copy of the letter of termination.

Police Chief Michael Morrison requested all items belonging to the town be returned by May 5, 2021. Michael Morrison will assist in retrieving the town's property.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Brian O'Rourke

George Riley

Mark Newman