

Minutes – Selectmen’s Meeting (Special) – August 30, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. in the meeting room by Chairman Newman. Attending the meeting were Gary Haley, Jim Newman (Chairman) and Juli Vanderhoop. Many town residents were in attendance including: Elaine Vanderhoop, Elise Lebovit, Paul Manning, Vera DellaRusso, Caroline Feltz, Berta Welch, Carla Cuch, Kathy Newman, Randhi Belain (Police Chief), Frank Perez, Alan Rugg, Jason Widdiss and others.

The meeting began with a discussion of the break-in at the Selectman’s office on Saturday afternoon. Events that preceded an investigation by the Aquinnah Police Department were discussed. Ms. Lebovit, who serves as Chairman of the Assessor’s Department provided an “explanation” of the matter that purportedly became necessary due to some sort of deficiency with the main computer server located in the Treasurer’s office that was also entered without permission.

Chairman Newman indicated that as a result of the unauthorized entry into town offices the Selectmen would implement a policy that the Town Offices would be closed on weekends between the hours of Friday at 5:00 p.m. until 7:30 a.m. on Monday mornings. The same schedule would be in effect on holidays. No entry or work will be allowed in the Town Offices during the hours it is closed without express, prior written permission from the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Newman stated that he felt that town employees’ work should be conducted within prescribed business hours. Ms. Lebovit objected to implementation of the policy.

A motion to accept this policy, the motion was seconded and the vote was unanimous.

The Selectmen agreed to attend a meeting of the Board of Assessors on Tuesday September 19, 2017 concerning any matters remaining unresolved.

The Selectmen agreed to keep the lighthouse open on weekends in October pending approval by the Lighthouse Committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:15 p.m.