

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
December 17, 2008
Slade Building**

Members present: Paul Hale, Chairman
Matthew Castriotta, Clerk

Staff present: Elaine Peterson, Town Secretary, Deb Roussel, Town Administrator, Chief Dennis Perron, Emergency Management Director Dennis O'Donnell, Tax Collector Cyndy Doane and Deputy Assessor Dianne Lanney.

Meeting commenced at 9:38 AM

State of Emergency

Chairman Hale reported need for emergency meeting of the Board of Selectmen related to safety of the Town during declared emergency, which began at 12:07 a.m. Friday, December 12, 2008. Chief Perron reported that from the start of the emergency declaration, four officers had been working sixteen-hour shifts through to Saturday. Since that time, both he and Sergeant Newton continued sixteen-hour shifts, while the remaining two officers worked twelve hours on and twelve hours off, providing security, coordinating relief efforts, and manning command post. With electricity beginning to come back on line, there has been an increase in 911 calls and the fatigue is beginning to show. Officers have families and homes without power with which they have to deal, further depleting available relief time. Weather is also a factor, four to six inches of precipitation today, six or more inches predicted for Friday and a nor'easter Sunday, citing concern for not only safety of the Town, but officers' safety as well.

Perron indicated fifth officer on ten-day vacation, returning mid-week next week, which will allow some rotation for rest, however requested the Board consider recall of the full-time officer, which will allow use of part-time officers, as needed for road details. Perron noted tree companies are operating without detail officers in most cases, which is dangerous. Surrounding towns are in the same situation, making it near impossible to provide detail coverage.

Ms. Roussel reported she had contacted MA Department of Employment and Training, determining callback does not add nor renew to the term for which the employee is eligible, nor require any wait time for the employee when returned to unemployment.

Motion: M.Castriotta **2nd: P. Hale**
To call back, police officers formerly employed with the Town to serve the public safety needs of the Town for an unidentified term **Vote: All in Favor**

Mr. Hale reported he had spoke with Kristie Casey prior to the meeting at her place of employment. Though unable to attend, he had explained the purpose of the meeting.

Motion: M.Castriotta **2nd: P. Hale**
To adjourn the meeting at 9:46 am **Vote: All in Favor**

Respectfully submitted,

Debra A. Roussel,
Town Administrator

Approved: January 5, 2009.