

Arrowsic Selectmen's Meeting

January 24, 2013

Present: Sukey Heard, Michele Gaillard, Bill Savedoff, Mary McDonald
John Hinds, Jeff Galuza, Paul Schlein, Roger Heard

This was an emergency meeting called to discuss the hiring of a lawyer to defend the town from a lawsuit begun against us by the Town of West Bath.

The meeting was posted at Town Hall and on the Arrowsic website. An announcement was sent to the Arrowsic Google list and faxed to the Times Record.

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 pm

Lawyer

Sukey read the summons, served to her by the Sagadahoc sheriff on January 22, which stated that a lawsuit had been filed, and we are obliged to prepare and serve a written answer within 20 days.

She briefly outlined the substance of the suit for the benefit of those in the audience. West Bath would like to recover \$1.9 million dollars that they believe they overpaid to RSU1 based on an incorrect funding formula. They are suing the RSU, Bath, Woolwich, and Arrowsic.

Our town lawyer had been contacted but recommended we contact someone with more experience in this particular kind of law. This meeting was called to discuss the qualifications of several alternatives and make a decision.

Head Selectman, Sukey Heard, excused herself from the deliberation because she is related to one of the lawyers contacted by the town, Rufus Brown. Sukey took a seat in the audience at 8:20 pm.

Selectman Bill Savedoff detailed that he had spoken and corresponded with several lawyers who had been recommended: Rufus Brown from Brown & Burke in Portland, Peter Cary and Bob Mittel from MittelAsen in Portland, David Lourie from the Law Offices of David Lourie in Portland, and Gary Wood, former counsel for Portland, now in private practice.

Bill looked at each lawyer based on their qualifications, responsiveness and availability, the clarity of their discussion, the general direction they indicated they would take the case, and hourly rates. He prepared a spreadsheet that allowed the lawyers' attributes to be compared. Based on his research and discussions, he recommended Rufus Brown for the job.

Michele concurred and praised Mr. Brown for a very well written, cogent email in which he indicated his unique qualifications, his familiarity with the issue, and several clear arguments that could be made on behalf of the Town of Arrowsic.

A motion to hire Mr. Brown was made by Bill, seconded by Michele and passed unanimously. Bill will contact the lawyers with the results of the meeting.

Head Selectman Heard returned to the table at 8:35 pm and questions and comments were heard from the audience

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Gaillard