

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

PRESENT: CLAYTON WOODWORTH, CHRIS WADE, TYLER MITCHELL, AND SCOTT MCCARTHY. LARRY HEBERT WAS NOT PRESENT AS HE RECUSED HIMSELF DUE TO A CONFLICT OF INTEREST.

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 7:15 P.M.

SET THE AGENDA: AGENDA SET AS WRITTEN

REVIEW OF OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 1 V.S.A. SECTION 313 – PERSONNEL ISSUE

CHRIS MADE MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION. SCOTT SECOND. TYLER ASKED FOR DISCUSSION. TYLER SUBMITTED THE DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST BY VT CODE OF ETHICS FORM, FOR PUBLIC SERVANT WHEN CHOOSING TO ACT. (SEE ATTACHED)

TYLER ASKED TO AMEND THE MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL POLICY. NO SECOND TO AMEND.

CHIEF WILLIAM GRAHAM REQUESTED THAT THE MEETING BE AN OPEN MEETING. ALL VOTED TO MOVE FORWARD WITH OPEN MEETING.

AFTER AN EXTREMELY CONTENTIOUS MEETING WITH PUBLIC INPUT, WILLIAM GRAHAM READ A LETTER TO THE TOWN MANAGER AND SELECTBOARD GIVING HIS RESIGNATION AS FIRE CHIEF EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 15, 2024. SEE ATTACHED. CHRIS WADE MADE A MOTION TO ACCEPT WILLIAM GRAHAM'S RESIGNATION AND WAS INFORMED THAT HE COULD NOT MAKE THE MOTION AS HE WAS ACTING CHAIR OF THE MEETING. CLAYTON, SCOTT, AND TYLER ALL REFUSED TO ACCEPT THE RESIGNATION.

The link to the September 30, 2024, Selectboard Meeting Video is as follows:

https://youtu.be/Bw8lCYLL_M?si=Yblt8BtyvduGPgKL

ADJOURN: SCOTT MADE MOTION TO ADJOURN AT 8: 52 P.M. CLAYTON
SECOND. SO MOVED.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
JACQUELINE HIGGINS

CHRIS WADE

CLAYTON WOODWORTH

SCOTT MCCARTHY

TYLER MITCHELL

Town of Williamstown
WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2024
7:00 P.M.
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

SELECTBOARD MEETING

SET THE AGENDA:

REVIEW OF OPEN PUBLIC COMMENT:

EXECUTIVE SESSION – 1 V.S.A. SECTION 313 – PERSONNEL
ISSUE

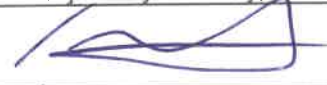
ADJOURN

**DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST AS REQUIRED BY THE VT CODE OF ETHICS
TO BE FILED ONLY IF A PUBLIC SERVANT CHOOSES TO ACT**

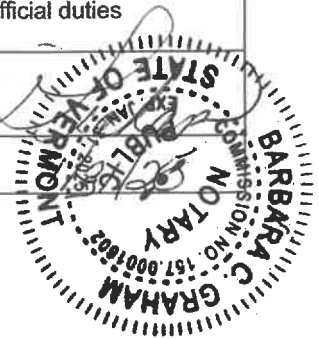
| PUBLIC SERVANT INFORMATION | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Name and title/position of public servant: | Tyler William Mitchell, Firefighter |
| Agency/Department: | Williamstown Fire Department |
| Office Phone: | N/A |
| Office E-mail: | N/A |
| <p>In my capacity as a public servant, I am expected to take certain action(s) in the performance of my official duties. Under present circumstances, a reasonable person could conclude that I am, or will be, confronted with a conflict of interest in the performance of these duties.</p> <p>A conflict of interest is defined as a direct or indirect interest in the outcome of a matter pending before me, or the public body in which I serve, that is greater than that of another person generally affected by the outcome of the matter. The interest can be my own, that of an immediate family or household member, or of a business associate.</p> <p>I am filing this disclosure form to disclose the facts surrounding this potential conflict of interest, and to explain why, despite the conflict, I choose to take official action.</p> | |
| CONFLICT OF INTEREST INFORMATION | |
| <p>Briefly state the nature of the conflict (including identities of all potentially affected parties or properties, whether the conflict is ongoing or a one-time event, potential or perceived benefits, and any other relevant information).</p> | <p>As a Firefighter within the Williamstown Fire Department, it could be perceived that I would be biased to the organization or the members within in it. However, I understand that as a Selectman my ultimate responsibility is to the community at large. I have shown past decision making where I was the only dissenting vote regarding a budgetary issue that benefited the fire department; the affirmative votes ignored the public's will for previously allocated money.</p> <p>In this specific case, I gain no personal benefit. I have not been asked any favors from the Fire Chief or command staff at large. I have not been promised any career benefits from the current Fire Chief nor do I intend to receive special privileges based on my position as Selectman. The Fire Chief has not initiated any personal communication with me regarding this issue. I am treating this issue as a one-time event until another personnel issue arises that requires my attention as a Selectman.</p> |
| <p>Explain your relationship to the person or organization at issue.</p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Self</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Immediate family member</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Business I am associated with</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Business a family member is associated with</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Business partner</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Property I own or co-own</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Property owned or co-owned by a family member</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Other [Explain]:</p> |

| | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>State the action(s) you intend to take, and how your action(s) may affect the person or organization at issue.</p> | <p>My intention on acting is to ensure the Selectboard follows this personnel hearing correctly based on the Vermont's Open Meeting Statute (1 VAS 313), Vermont Labor Rights and the Town of Williamstown Personnel policy and any other pertinent State Statutes or Municipal Policies.</p> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>Explain why, despite the relationship, you will act on the matter (Check at least one box)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The conflict is de minimis in nature <input type="checkbox"/> My action on the matter is ministerial or clerical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> My action will not benefit me [or the person or organization at issue] any more than others who are generally affected by the outcome of the matter <input type="checkbox"/> The conflict is amorphous, intangible, or speculative <input type="checkbox"/> I cannot legally or practically delegate the matter to another person <input type="checkbox"/> I have received advice from the Ethics Commission that permits my action(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Other [Explain]: |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Confirmation and Signature | |
| <p>Confirmation</p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This disclosure fully discloses the nature of my conflict of interest. Taking into account the facts that I have disclosed above, I believe that I nonetheless can perform my official duties objectively and fairly, and in the best interest of the State.</p> |
| <p>Public servant signature:</p> |  |
| <p>Date:</p> | <p>9/30/21</p> |

Attach additional pages if necessary.





Williamstown Fire Department

249 Meadow St. P.O. Box 646 Williamstown, VT 05679 802-433-5907

Established 1911

September 30, 2024

Dear Jackie and Selectboard,

It is with a heavy heart that I write this letter to you. First, I want to thank both Jackie and Larry for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Fire Chief for the last, nearly 11 years. While it has had its ups and downs, in the end all decisions made were found in common ground to make the Fire Department a better place. I am proud of the accomplishments that my crew and I have made over the last decade for the betterment of the Williamstown Fire Department. I have had the honor to work with a lot of great people. However, I have to realize when it's time to take a step back and focus on different priorities. I never like to take credit for anything alone and I truly believe that the department is in a better place now than when I took over in 2014. Together we have bought the town's first ladder truck, built a training facility, invested in new gear and equipment, brought the membership from six members in 2014 to twenty-three today, bought a new fire truck, bought our first ever pick up, refurbished one fire truck, and are almost done with another, as well as organized and participated in several community events.

Again, I thank Jackie, Larry, and all the current and past board members for this great opportunity. Unfortunately, I have made the decision to resign as Fire Chief, effective October 15, 2024. I would like to stay on the department as a member and assist in any way I can. Furthermore, I would be happy to help train the newly appointed Fire Chief if desired.

Sincerely,

William Graham
Williamstown Fire Chief

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD

MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 9/30/24

Susan Lyon

Stephen Hardaker

Morgan Colun

Barbara C. Graham

Sylvie Hebert

Ernst Holzer

Jasmin M. Raible

Alvin Crum

Michael Alvey

Ed Eaton

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD

MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 9-30-24

Robert Molinaro

Liam Hebert

Cash Cornicum

Justin Blakey

Matthew Brien

~~Howard Solt~~

~~Dennis~~

Byron R. My

Aden Cushman

Elana Paddock

WILLIAMSTOWN SELECTBOARD MEETING SIGN IN SHEET

DATE 9-30-24

Alana J. Robbins

Ben Robbins

Gage Woodard

Michael D. Greenia

Mike St. Lawrence

Tyler Placey-Noyes

TJ DeRose
