

## **MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**

July 6, 2016

Meeting held at Town Hall, 7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Joseph Perry, Vice Chairman Robert Snow, David Petersen, Robert Merry (Town Administrator Deborah Eagan, Assistant Town Administrator Amy Lydon) Clerk Cliff Pierce - ABSENT

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES:** Reverend Bob Hagopian; Lawrence White; Mary White

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Chairman Perry called meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He said the meeting is being audio and visually recorded digitally.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Larry White led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Letter from Robert O. Trestan, Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League

Chairman Perry read the letter from Robert O. Trestan, Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League, into the record.

Robert Merry read his response letter into the record. Merry said he sincerely apologizes to the Board and the office staff if this has caused any problems, or made things tough on people.

Perry said Merry's letter has addressed the issue. He read the email from Robert O. Trestan in response to Merry's apology letter. Snow said he is glad that Merry admitted his mistake and he believes Merry's apology to the Town and the Jewish Community is sincere. Petersen thanked Merry for his apology, which is important to the community and the Board. Merry thanked the Board members for their remarks. Perry said it is important for elected officials to take responsibility for their actions and apologize, and he applauds Merry for doing so. He said the remark was offensive, but inadvertent, and Merry has said in his letter that he will take future precautions to not repeat this.

Snow said he has never heard Merry make any other offensive remark as a Selectman over the years they have served together.

Bob Snow made a motion to adjourn, Dave Petersen second. This motion was not completed.

Reverend Bob Hagopian of the First Congregational Church said Merry is a parishioner, he has known him for eighteen years and he knows Merry's family. He said Merry has served the community in roles such as emergency services, and is a brave man with a long history in his family of service to the community. He said he accepts Merry's apology, and he is glad Merry did this quickly and sent it to the Anti-Defamation League. He said there are still words in the lexicon that have not been eradicated from common speech, and he is an Armenian and is close to the Jewish Community. He said he is glad that Merry took this action, he commends him, and he supports the Board of Selectmen.

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business before the Board, Chairman Perry called for a motion to adjourn. Bob Snow so moved, Dave Petersen second, all in favor - aye (4-0). Cliff Pierce - ABSENT.

Open meeting adjourned at 7:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Lydon  
Assistant Town Administrator

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Email from Jacob Stuckey to selectman@townofrowley.org regarding ADL Complaint Response
2. Letter from Robert O. Trestan, Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League
3. Letter from G. Robert Merry to Robert O. Trestan, Regional Director, Anti-Defamation League
4. Email correspondence between Robert Trestan and Debbie Eagan regarding ADL Complaint Response