**Board of Selectmen meeting minutes**

**8/29/2016, 5:00pm, Rhodes Building**

**Present:** Selectman Doubleday, Selectman Pearson, Selectman Martell, Chief Gary Thomann, Lieutenant Kevin Fournier, Town Clerk-Kathy Martell, Nicholas Thomann, Matthew Kent, and Selectmen’s Administrative Assistant-Susannah Carey.

**Open:** Selectman Doubleday opened the meeting at 5:00pm.

1. **Reserve Program-Chief Thomann**

Chief Gary Thomann would like to reinstitute the Reserve Officer Program for the Police Department. The program was struck about 10 years ago with previous Chief of Police. The need for this program stems from projects happening not only in Pelham but in surrounding towns. Also the pool of officers to choose from has been small because most of the part-time officers on the Police Department have full-time jobs causing them to be unavailable during the day. It has been difficult for Chief Thomann to fill road details. The Chief is seeking 3 positions for the Reserve Program. The officers in the program would volunteer their time, provide their own uniforms and equipment, and accept the financial costs. They would be able to ride along with Pelham officers, gain experience with traffic stops, and further their career in Law Enforcement building their resumes. The reserve officers would work road jobs alone. No money would be collected from the Town, but if those Reserve Officers fill road jobs they would receive payment from vendor through the town. The number of hours that the Reserve Officers work is totally dependent on them. If they gain around 300 hours they would have qualifications to seek part-time officer employment. 2 interested candidates present have been recommended by both Chief Thomann and Lieutenant Fournier; Matthew Kent and Nicholas Thomann. Conflict of Interest question was discussed because one candidate is Chief Thomann’s son and another is William Martell’s grandson. Chief Thomann explained that he doesn’t hire the officers or get involved with the pay issue/checks, and Lieutenant Fournier makes the schedule for the Officers. Lieutenant Fournier recommends reinstituting the reserve program. The road jobs that are available are offered to current Officers in the Police Department based on seniority. Reserve Officers would be offered those unfilled details last. The Police Department does receive resumes for positions that may become available, but there hasn’t been outside interest in the reserve program. Chief Thomann and Lieutenant Fournier evaluate the reserve officers.

Selectman Pearson would like to have diversity on the Police Department and see if Chief Thomann could advertise for more diversity with the reserve programs final open position. Chief Thomann has never actively searched but will advertise for more diversity. Selectman Doubleday can see the need for the program and having 2 officers in the police cars, man or woman.

Chief Thomann would like the 2 of the 3 available positions to be appointed tonight by the Board of Selectmen for 1 year terms ending June 30, 2017.

On a motion by Selectman Pearson to reinstate the Reserve Officer Program, seconded by Selectman Doubleday, unanimously approved.

On a motion by Selectman Pearson to appoint Matthew Kent and Nicholas Thomann as Reserve Officers until June 30, 2017, seconded by Selectman Doubleday, Selectman Martell abstains, motion passes.

On a motion by Selectman Martell to close the Board of Selectmen meeting and move into Executive Session, seconded by Selectman Pearson, unanimously approved.

Respectfully Submitted, Susannah Carey