

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 11, 2017**

Present: Maura C. Curran, Chairman, Anthony V. Vegnani, Vice Chairman, Shawn Harris, John Danehey

Karen Canfield not in attendance

Al Bangert, Acting Town Administrator

The Meeting was called to order at 5:40 p.m.

Acceptance of Agenda

**Mr. Vegnani made a motion to accept the agenda for October 11, 2017
Second by Mr. Harris, all in favor Unanimous vote (5-0)**

Emergency Response – Chief Stewart and Emergency personnel

Mr. Bangert asked Chief Stewart to attend tonight and debrief the board on the events that unfolded on October 10, 2017. Chief Michael Stewart and Deputy Chief Mark Thompson were in attendance at the meeting. The Scituate Police Department has participated in MetroLEC for three years and there are two officers from Scituate, Officer Donovan and Detective Kirkbride, who are members and also serve in the marine unit and dive team. There was a 46 year old male acting despondent. The female placed a call to 911 to report the incident. They could not locate the male on route 3A. The subject called the station and indicated he was armed. He indicated if he was approached he would shoot law enforcement and himself. He stated someone is going to die today. He indicated he could see police officers on the street but they could not see him. They did not want to lose the subject they wanted to keep him there. He made several other calls to the police station and was getting more and more aggressive in his discussion. Officer Brain McLaughlin was summoned to the scene from the K-9 unit and has been involved in several large scale deployments. He coordinated the Metro LEC response. Officer McLaughlin's role was very helpful to Chief Stewart. Officer Donovan is a SWAT officer and within five minutes they had trained personnel available to them. He was on the arrest team that went into the woods to place the subject in custody. Dispatcher Barbara DeWolf did an amazing job trying to calm this person down. She did a great job. Officer Fred Malouf was working a detail and responded to the station. He learned the subject was ex-military in the marines for 14 years and suffered PTSD. He maintained a good repore with the subject. Negotiators were placed in the role call room and pulled up an overview of the area and were able to get pings on the subjects location to track him. Many off duty officers came in to the station to help with the situation. Chief Stewart provided a packet with an overview to the Selectmen. The mutual aid was

terrific. Marshfield sent significant aid yesterday during the encounter to establish a perimeter. Cohasset arrived with multiple units and their Chief was on scene. They took control of the traffic flow. The schools were put into a shelter in place mode. The lockdown mode occurred for over an hour and then back to shelter in place. Discussions took place today to review what occurred with the school. Working out of the new facility allowed them to use the EOC. Many compliments were received from the organizations involved. Around 10:30 a.m. the subject did not communicate at all. After an hour he began communicating with Officer Malouf. It was based on this information that the SWAT vehicles were deployed to the area. Every decision made with METRO LEC was reviewed with Chief Stewart prior to action. It is significant that the Chief maintain control over the situation since they are accountable for the situation. Chief Stewart was very pleased with the SWAT response and they are very professional. The subject was lying down in the woods and SWAT team members were deployed behind the armor to place the subject in custody. The de-escalation process began. As of the press conference the subject was being booked and he was transported to the hospital. After the press conference all those who had discussion with the subject was reviewed with the district attorney's office. He was charged by the Scituate Police Department due to the level of the threat. This created significant disruption to the community neighborhoods and schools. This is the way these situations are handled this day and age. Chief Stewart is very proud of the way the staff handled the situation and he is very happy with the response he got from METRO LEC. The subject and officers all went home safe.

Ms. Curran said she can't thank the police department enough. The community appreciated the level of communication provided to the Selectmen, the school department and the community at large. The Superintendent of Schools sent a complimentary letter to the police department congratulating and thanking the officers for an excellent job. Mr. Harris asked when the METRO LEC comes in is the Chief still calling the shots. Chief Stewart said yes, Scituate continues to call the shots in cooperation with METRO LEC. Mr. Harris talked about the dispatcher and police officer who had the subject on the phone and how they did an excellent job. Chief Stewart stated that Barbara DeWolfe and Officer Malouf did an excellent job with the subject. Mr. Vegnani said this was a once in a lifetime situation and felt very confident with the actions the police department took with the town and the schools to protect our community. Mr. Danehey thanked the Chief for the thorough report and thanked the officers and Ms. DeWolfe for their actions yesterday. Mr. Danehey said Chief Stewart made the right call and thanked everyone involved. Ms. Curran thanked the Scituate Fire Department and Chief Murphy for his support as well. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Bangert as well for his role in communicating with everyone yesterday.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. To consider strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel—Town Administrator

Ms. Curran stated that The Board of Selectmen will move into executive session to consider strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel – Town Administrator position. The board will reconvene in open session.

Move that the Board of Selectmen go into Executive Session to consider strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel – Town Administrator position. The board will reconvene in open session.

Ms. Curran – yes

Mr. Vegnani – yes

Mr. Danehey – yes

Mr. Harris - yes

The Selectmen moved into Executive Session at 6:09 p.m.

The board reconvened in open session at 7:13 p.m.

There being no other business the meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m. Motion by Mr. Harris Second by Mr. Vegnani Unanimous Vote (5-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Devin, Recorder

List of Documents for October 11, 2017 Board of Selectmen Meeting

- Agenda

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes for October 11, 2017

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Maura C. Curran, Chairman

Anthony V. Vegnani, Vice Chairman

John F. Danehey, Clerk

not in attendance

Karen B. Canfield

Shawn Harris