

Selectmen's Meeting 6-9-14

Mr. Sonny LePage, at the meeting on May 31, 2014, drew an interesting parallel between the Fire Department and the Library, which, he said, in 1997, managed to "get done", though the Fire Department did not.

I was there in 1997 and have an intimate knowledge of events. The Selectmen and their Appointed Library Trustees had a dispute over a computer. There was a suggestion of impropriety and in retaliatory anger, the Selectmen fired the VOLUNTEER Board of Trustees, asserting control over the operation of the Library. This was in violation of all nationally accepted rules of governance for libraries. Some of us felt that, as an educational institution, the Library was too important to be subject to the caprices of the Selectmen and proposed the creation of an ELECTED Board of Trustees, answerable to the Town. The Town agreed and the Board was established in 1997 at Town Meeting.

Mr. LePage said the Library got done but the Fire Department did not. In an apparent Secret Move, the Fire Department's Corporation was dissolved in 1997. In any case, nobody knew about it until this spring, 17 years later. I can only assume the goal at the time was to ensure that everything, like the Library and the Fire Department, was under the direct control of the Selectmen.

It is the job of the Selectmen to carry out the will of the people consistent with the laws of the Town, the State, and the US Constitution. They should have no agenda of their own and should not be subject to private interests. They should be impartial representatives of the people. We are not looking for rotating despots, carrying out their own agendas as they see fit.

It's 1997 all over again. We have watched the Selectmen, in obvious opposition to the will of the Volunteer Fire Department and the Town, maneuver in secret, behind the scenes, to fire the Fire Chief. In so doing, the Board of Selectmen have shown contempt for The Townspeople, contempt for The Rule of Law, and contempt for The Democratic Process. It is shameful.

How can we ever trust you? Trust, as they say, is The First Casualty. By your actions, you have demonstrated that you are unfit for the offices you hold. I cannot tell you how disappointed in you I am. You citizens, by now, must recognize that Vigilance is the Price of Liberty. If this is the kind of behavior you accept, it is what you will get; the betrayals have only just begun.

Marian R. Budzyna
Limerick, ME
6-9-14

1. A motion with no studied information or fact finding regarding its effect now and in the future can only lead to unconsidered problems
2. At this time, and in its entire history, the Limerick Volunteer Fire Dept. has been considered outstanding. Why change? If it ain't broke, don't fix it.
3. It is unwise to consider making changes in a successful program without first considering if and what some problems may exist, and, possible solutions to these potential problems.
4. The judgment as to what a successful program is can only be made by the people it serves and are affected by it. The Limerick Volunteer Fire Dept. has universally and consistently been proclaimed successful.
5. If a proposed change is politically motivated, it will only lead to more political solutions that will serve not the interests of the majority, but only of the few.
6. If people vote emotionally, they will suffer financially.
7. It is critical that you study all of the ramifications that will result from your vote.
8. If you don't have all of the facts, you may find that you voted against your best interests.
9. You need to review an unbiased and complete study report before you vote!
10. Make use of the town attorney where the law is concerned, but, bear in mind that another attorney may be obtained to interpret the opposite.
11. Temporary measures that are legal can give you time to be thorough in your findings.
12. Since you contract for snow removal, and for garbage, why can't you contract with the Limerick Volunteer Fire Dept. for their services in order to give you time for your study.