

Plainfield Public Libraries Board of Trustees
January 17, 2017
Plainfield Elementary School, 7:15 pm
Public Hearing

Present: Emily Sands, Mark Pensgen, Nancy Liston, Jean Strong, Suzanne Spencer

7:15 call to order

Brad Wilder Nancy Norwalk's attorney spoke for 30 minutes. He alleged that the board breached the contract of a mediation agreement with Nancy Norwalk. He alleged that the board did not allow her to finish work on the special collections, had terminated her employment improperly, and had broken the Right to Know law. He threatened to sue the town on Nancy Norwalk's behalf unless the board agreed to reinstate Nancy Norwalk with her previous pay and benefits to work on the special collections for one year.

7:53 – Town Attorney Barry Schuster spoke. He said that the board suggested Nancy Norwalk consider mediation in March 2015 and there was a delay, but she selected a mediator and an agreement was reached on July 27, 2015. While Nancy Norwalk and the town prefer that the terms of the agreement remain confidential, given Nancy Norwalk's request for a public hearing the agreement could be discussed. Schuster said the agreement guaranteed her employment until 12/31/2016 and created a transition plan. He said that the board agreed to use Nancy Norwalk's first choice mediator, that the mediation took two full days and was paid for by the town. He said Nancy Norwalk was represented by legal counsel and had supporters at her side through the process. He said she entered the agreement freely and willingly, and that the board voted on 12.2.2016 to act on the contract created by the mediation agreement. He said that she had close to 18 months to complete any work.

8:04 The board suspended the hearing to meet with counsel.

8:22 The board returned to the meeting. Emily said the board open to discussion of attorney Wilder's offer, but would need to involve the select board. Mark made a motion to accept the original decision on 12.2.2016. Nancy Liston seconded. All voted in favor.

Brad asked when he could hear back. Emily said soon.

8:28 Emily made a motion to adjourn. Nancy Liston seconded. All voted in favor.