

## **Town Administrator Kevin Mearn's statement at Board of Selectmen's Meeting 07./30/12**

While I can't claim to be surprised by the Board's vote this evening, I am deeply saddened by what I perceive to be a failure of leadership by a majority of our towns's elected officials.

After thirty-nine years of faithful and successful service to the Town in which I was raised, the Board, as recently constituted, has determined that it is time for a new Town Administrator. While that is their prerogative, the people of Milton deserve to have their elected officials make such important decisions based on appropriate considerations.

This all began with my bringing to the Board's attention certain serious irregularities by a Department head. My job, as Town Administrator, is to act as gatekeeper for the Board of Selectmen. It is my responsibility to bring to their attention such serious irregularities, as they are the appointing authority over all department heads in town. However, the Board, by a 2-1 vote has decided not to renew my contract. I fear that this will only embolden this department head, and perhaps others, to act outside the scope of their authority. This would place them beyond the control of the electorate and could expose the town I love and have faithfully served to serious potential liability. While the board has chosen, for reasons only they can know, to make this issue personal, it was never personal to me. This is an issue of policy, an issue of governance.

To be certain, the Board's actions with respect to my employment leave many issues which will need to be resolved in the coming weeks. I have worked hard over the past 5 years to posture Milton for success into the future. I am confident that my ultimate successor will be able to build upon my work for the benefit of the citizens of Milton. Until then, I intend to continue working diligently for the betterment of our Town.