

TOWN OF FRAMINGHAM
SELECTMEN'S RECORDS

EMERGENCY MEETING

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1981

Present: Chairman John F. DelPrete, John F. King, M. Clarke, Executive Administrator, Chief David Cella, Framingham State College Police, Rita Danton, who was in charge of the Campus Police Group during the midnight to 8:00 shift on the evening of October 24th, Jim McLaughlin of the College, Shawn Corey, who is the President of the Junior Class that was responsible for the event and Sgt. Brent Larrabee and Dr. Arthur Chaves from the College.

Absent: Claire F. Lavin

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 P.M. by Chairman DelPrete. This was a special meeting of the Board to give Framingham State College the opportunity to speak on the Beer & Wine license which was issued for October 30.

On Monday evening, October 26, the motion of the Board was to request that M. Clarke check the facts in connection with the activities on the 24th of October to determine whether or not they were accurate and complete and if found them to be as they were outlined in the letter from Mr. Mitchell of Adams Road, the vote was taken that the license which had already been granted for October 30th would be revoked and any additional licenses would **not** be considered under any circumstances for the State College. On Tuesday morning, Mr. Clarke checked first with the Police Department to determine if there was any record of activity at Framingham State College. There was a record in the log of a call which came from a Dispatcher, apparently working with the Campus Police. It was, in effect what Mr. Clarke would call a courtesy call to advise our Police Department that the activity at the Forum was coming to a conclusion and that the people attending there were leaving and they were going to be out on the streets. There was concern expressed that the caution had been given to the people who asked for the license that there could not be any unusual disturbance of the neighbors in connection with it and, as a result, they wanted to advise the Police Department that the activity was coming to a conclusion and suggested that perhaps they would like to monitor it. He was advised that Sgt. Larrabee, who was the Sgt. in charge on that shift from Midnight to 8:00, that when he was advised of this, arranged to have two different cruisers go through the area at different intervals to be certain there was nothing that was unusual activity. Mr. Clarke spoke to several College officials and they were quite surprised that there had been a complaint by Mr. Mitchell of Adams Rd. because among other precautions they took, they actually stationed an extra-duty man to be certain there was no disturbance there on Adams Rd. Following that, Mr. Clarke spoke to Mr. Mitchell himself. He said that he had been in contact with Chief Cella from the Campus Police and he pointed out that he was not concerned about anything on Adams Rd., that he was complaining about a disturbance that occurred, as he said, adjacent to the Towers Dormitory which is on the other side of State Street where Mr. Mitchell lives and it was approximately 1½ hours after the completion of the event that was at the College Forum. It appeared to Mr. Clarke that there were some very definite misunderstandings - that it didn't seem to agree with the letter which had been sent in from Mr. Mitchell and after several talks with the College officials, they requested that they be given an opportunity to tell the other side of the story and suggested that the Selectmen should hear both sides of it. Mr. Clarke invited Mr. Mitchell to join at the meeting this evening and, if not this evening, the next evening. He said he had conflicts at both times. He said his feelings were pretty much expressed in his letter. He wrote it at 7:00 on Sunday morning, he was up all night with the disturbance and as far as he was concerned, he had not changed his position and did not see any point in coming to the meeting.

John DelPrete questioned Sgt. Larrabee. He asked if this was basically what happened. Sgt. Larrabee personally went through twice between 12:45 A.M. and 1:30 and there was no unusual pedestrian or vehicle traffic.

Chief Cella asked to have Shawn Corey and Jim McLaughlin explain.

Shawn Corey: It was a Western Night theme. They spent close to 5 weeks planning the function for the evening. Two weeks prior to that, Jim McLaughlin met with the Board of Selectmen and came to the class with his recommendations from that meeting. He told the class that they better step up security to insure that no problems would exist that evening. They hung a huge sign where the tickets were being sold. The sign read, Please be quiet on your way home this evening, this could endanger future licenses. Along with that, they attached a note: Please keep the noise down on your way back to the dorms, excess noise would lead to the cancellation of future events, your cooperation is greatly appreciated from the Class of 83, and each one of the officers initialed it. Along with this, the people who were selling the tickets were asked by Shawn to issue verbal ones. Sunday morning, after the event was over, Shawn had a meeting with Mr. Dickson, who lives on Church Street directly behind the College. He went to him from a complaint that stemmed from the week before. Mr. Dickson was very cooperative. Mr. Dickson did not hear one bit of noise all evening.

Jim McLaughlin: He said that he had met with the Class officers and said that he just got back from meeting at the Town and that it was real important that the events run smoothly. He told the officers to pass on to students. They had the band make two announcements during the evening. When the event was over, they were warned to keep the noise down. Between 1:30 A.M. and 1:45 he drove down Adams Rd. and there was hardly anyone around. Mr. McLaughlin expressed concern about the Pizza Pub in the area and that it is very close to where the complaints are coming from. There was also concern regarding outsiders at these functions. He explained that no outsiders are allowed at these events unless they are signed in by a guest and none of the events are advertised in the community.

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Rita Danton: Explained that Chief Cella is very good in letting College officials use their judgement in keeping people beyond their chore should the need arise. On Saturday night, they held over two extra people in the cruisers to be sure that any noise, any problems or large groups of people were kept in line. She said that Jim set up the exit from the College Center between 12:00 and 12:30 so the groups went out in very small numbers. Officer Komola was on Adams Rd. to make sure that everything was under control. She was shocked about the complaint from Mr. Mitchell. She also said that there were no problems that evening.

Chief Cella: On the night of the function, they had the student Class of 83 pay for 8 Campus Police officers to watch the function. Seven were in the function. One of them came in at 10:00 and worked until 2:00 A.M. on Adams Road. After the function ended at midnight, one of the officers stayed until 1:30 A.M. and another volunteered to stay also. At 1:35 A.M., Mr. Mitchell of Adams Rd. called regarding excessive noise of people leaving Lindsley Hall. He talked to the dispatcher that logged the complaint. He asked specifically what Mr. Mitchell said. She said he was complaining of excessive noise. He did not mention Lindsley Hall. Chief Cella spoke to Mr. Mitchell on the telephone. Mr. Mitchell indicated to Chief Cella that he gave his name and address and only complained about excessive noise. Mr. Mitchell did not indicate that it was Towers and not Lindsley Hall that he was complaining about. Towers is the ten-story high rise building which is on the opposite side of State Street from Mr. Mitchell's house. He spoke with the House Director and at approximately 1:30 A.M. there was a group of students that returned from an off-campus function. About 30 students came back. No problems or noise was reported. There was only one call complaining. Chief Cella said that the function was very well planned. He finds it hard to believe that there were any complaints. The activity was at a very minimal. Mr. Mitchell said, "Lindsley Hall has been very good this year, the girls have been great". He has no problems with Lindsley Hall. The administration has made an effort to help solve any differences with the College and the neighbors and are continuing to do so. They have changed a lot of the rules and regulations from within. They are dealing with them effectively. Chief Cella believed they really deserved a chance.

J. King: Asked Mr. Clarke if he saw George Mitchell's letter prior to the Selectmen's meeting on Monday evening.

M. Clarke: Answered just immediately prior to the meeting.

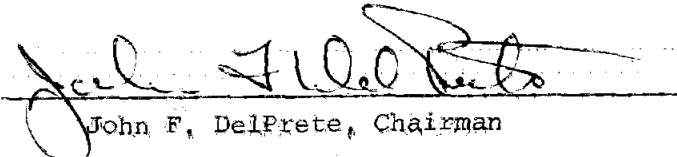
J. King: The letter came in with no time to research any information. We accepted the letter on face value and as a result of the letter, Selectmen directed Mr. Clarke to make inquiry as to substantiate the facts as presented in the letter and, if in fact, those were correct that this license this week would be suspended. Mr. King is pleased that he followed through on this and that we have representatives of the College here along with Sgt. Larrabee of the Framingham Police Department. If there was prior notice of Mr. Mitchell's letter prior to Monday evening we could have conducted this on Monday, but unfortunately we did not have the letter until we came in at 7:30 on Monday evening. John King was satisfied with all the statements presented.

J. DelPrete: The proximity of the College to the adjacent stores and Pizza Pub and that there could always be a problem that way. You would have to be extra careful in dealing with these problems. He was very pleased with the way the facts were presented.

J. King: We have an obligation to the residents that live in the area and I think we have an obligation to the College also to try to work in harmony with them if it's possible at all. There are times when things have a tendency to get out of hand and then we have to take some action. In this case, you did try to run a proper function. You set up the proper procedures to conduct such a function and that is the reason that he thought it was wise to get this matter in the open. He said it would have been much more appropriate if they had the letter prior to the meeting and brought the College officials down that evening, he thinks it could have been ironed out.

Dr. Arthur Chaves: Thanked the Board for the opportunity to give the State College story.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 P.M.


John F. DelPrete, Chairman