

## TOWN

# Arbitrator chosen in town labor dispute

BY MARY LANCASTERE  
INDEPENDENT WRITER

Former Zoning Board of Appeals administrator Linda Williams' dispute over the validity of her September firing will go to arbitration in March, with a resolution to be determined by early May by an arbitrator agreed to by both sides in the issue.

On September 25, Williams, who served 25 years with the town in various capacities with the ZBA, claims she was wrongfully dismissed that day because, when she questioned directives with Town Administrator Libby Gibson, she was told she was being "insubordinate and argumentative." Gibson maintains she had proper grounds for the termination, explaining after the action that it involved work performance relating to supervisor directives and performance of duties in accordance with town policies. Gibson would not elaborate on specifics leading to Williams' dismissal because of employee privacy rights.

Now the matter is coming before an attorney with the national American Arbitration Association's Boston branch. Hearings will be held on Nantucket beginning March 26 and ending March 28. The hearings are not open to the public or the press. Peter Berry, the town's attorney in the case, said that at the conclusion of the hearings each side has 30 days in which to file case briefs. Following that action, the arbitrator has 35 days to return a decision.

Williams is provided an attorney by

the town's union at no cost. The union and the town share the arbitrator's fee of \$800 per day. The arbitrator chosen by both sides is Tammy Brynie. Her resume lists "considerable experience" in labor management relations, including conducting hearings and rendering opinions in unfair labor practice. She has dealt with private and federal sectors as well as health care, education, public works and service industries, and is a permanent arbitrator for the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association.

"This was not something I anticipated at my age," said Williams, who is 53 and had planned on retiring in a year and a-half before she was terminated. "They could have just waited till I retired and then moved on."

Williams also claims she has not received longevity pay she believes is due her under her contract, nor received possession of her office's zoning books she said belong to her. Gibson said Williams' employment was covered by a collective bargaining agreement which contains no provision for longevity pay to terminated employees.

"She was treated in the same manner as other terminated employees who also did not receive longevity payments," said Gibson, adding, "We were unable to determine that (she) owned those books. We consider them to be town property. There is nothing to prove her ownership of them and they are being held in the town clerk's office so they can be available to all town citizens."

Gibson said once the arbitration concludes, details as to why Williams was dismissed will become public record. ■

closings of establishments serving alcohol. The establishments which sought an extension from 1 a.m. to 2 a.m. are Alice's Restaurant; Lola 41; 56 Union Street; Bamboo Supper Club; Starlight Cafe; The Muse; and the Rose and Crown.

- Unanimously approved a request for a waiver from road opening regulations for Holdgate's Laundry, which needs to install a bigger wastewater pipe for its business.

- Unanimously approved an application from The Cellar to change its license from a seasonal wine and malt package store to a seasonal all alcoholic beverages package store.

- Unanimously approved a town administrator's request for a temporary seasonal population increase estimate for 2008. This is a yearly state requirement to determine the summer population in connection with the number of liquor licenses which may be granted to towns.

- Unanimously approved a taxi petition to allow cab rates, which in June increased by one dollar excepting the town rate, remain in effect. When the rate increase was approved last summer it was with the idea that if gas costs went down the increased rate could be eliminated. Wendy Watts, speaking on behalf of Chief's Cab, said her accounts show that the average price per gallon of gas has increased by 90 cents since a year ago.

- Discussed the FY09 general fund operating budget. Selectman Patty Roggeveen said the town "May need a bag of tricks" to help convince voters to approve another override, and stressed that all details relating to needed monies should be explained to taxpayers as early in the budget process as possible. ■

— Compiled by Mary Lancaster



Patty Roggeveen



Allen Reinhard



Whitey Willauer



Brian Chadwick



Mike Kopko

## ON SELECTMEN

### AT ITS MEETING TONIGHT, WEDNESDAY, DEC. 26, THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN WILL FIRST CONVENE AS THE BOARD OF HEALTH AND:

- Consider a variance request for 124 Wauwinet Road for a failed septic system. The BOH office is recommending approval for the request.

- Hear a petition for relief from the federal food service code for Pinto's Island Fruit and Produce on Amelia Drive asking for an extension of time to install proper flooring in the building. The BOH office does not favor the extension and suggests that until adequate flooring is installed the business should not operate after Dec. 30, 2007 until such time as the flooring is improved.

- Will hold a discussion on Senate Bill S2379, an Act Relative to Water Protection.

### CONVENING AS THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, MEMBERS WILL:

- Hear a county administrator's report.

Convening as the Board of Selectmen, members will:

- Accept and execute easement grants for the One Big Beach Program.

- Consider renewal of the liquor and entertainment licenses for the Bamboo Supper Club, continued from Dec. 12 because the business owner needed more time to document the building's sprinkler system.

- Hear a town administrator's report, if any.

- Hold a discussion on the FY09 general fund operating budget, continued from Dec. 19.

### AT ITS MEETING WEDNESDAY, DEC. 19 THE SELECTMEN:

- Unanimously approved a request to relocate a pole on Candle House Lane.

- Unanimously approved renewal of the annual all alcoholic beverages innholder license for the Jared Coffin House (tabled from Dec. 12). Manager Jim Storey explained that though the Jared's dining room and basement Tap Room have been closed for about two years, work on renovations to the kitchen for Jared's is underway and expected to be completed for reinstatement of dinner at the restaurant by mid-to-late April. Alcohol would also be served from the Jared's upstairs bar. The Tap Room has been removed from current consideration on the license because work to bring that area up to code and become handicap accessible is not anticipated for completion by the 2008 season.

- Unanimously approved the town clerk's request for appointment of election officers.

- Unanimously approved a request from Our Island Home to accept a gift of a new dishwasher from Marine Home Center for use at the Adult Community Day Center.

- Unanimously approved a request from Nantucket Memorial Airport for execution of documents regarding a transfer of property at 58 Madequecham Valley Road (home of the Eric Shaw family) pursuant to approval of Article 71 of the 2007 Annual Town Meeting.

- Voted 3 to 1 (Chadwick opposed) to approve a Land Council request for a conservation restriction at 35 Pochick Ave.

- Unanimously approved a Land Bank request for two conservation restrictions on property on Phillips Run Road.

- Voted 3 to 1 (Chadwick opposed) to approve requests for Jan. 1, 2008 late