

# SELECT COMMITTEE ON LEGAL REVIEW MINUTES

April 24, 2008

7:30 p.m. Town Hall Commission Room

Meeting called to order at 7:30 p.m.

## Committee Members Present:

Lincoln Briggs  
Elayne Robertson Demby  
David Fleming  
Douglas Olin  
Dennis Tracey  
Keith Watanabe

### 1. Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Mr. Fleming to approve the minutes of the meeting of the Committee on April 10, 2008. The motion was seconded by Ms. Demby. The motion carried unanimously.

### 2. Interviews of Municipal Counsel

Mr. Tracey reported on his interview of Robert Morris, a partner of Pullman & Comley in Bridgeport. Morris states that he has worked extensively with Cohen & Wolf, both on the same side and in adverse positions. He states that Cohen & Wolf has an excellent reputation in the community. Mr. Morris refers clients to Cohen & Wolf. He has also participated in joint defense work with the firm. Based on his experience, Cohen & Wolf is "thorough and does a good job". He also stated that Cohen & Wolf's rates were consistent with other firms doing municipal work in the area.

Mr. Tracey also reported on his interview of Richard Saxl, town attorney for Fairfield. Mr. Saxl has worked with Cohen & Wolf, and is familiar with the firm and its general reputation. Mr. Saxl stated that the firm had an "excellent reputation". He also confirmed that its rates are "in line" with those of comparable firms performing similar work. Mr. Saxl's rate as Town Attorney of Fairfield is \$195 per hour.

### 2. Continued Review of Cohen & Wolf cases/matters

The committee continued its discussion of cases and matters handled by Cohen & Wolf and the Town's procedures for legal review and approval of contracts. The committee discussed various ways to ensure that the proper level of legal review was performed with respect to contracts entered into by the Town.

The committee then received a report from Mr. Olin concerning the Morehouse Park field. The issues were discussed and the committee considered the issues that were presented by the legal disputes relating to Morehouse Field. It was agreed that additional information was required in order to fully evaluate the dispute.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis H. Tracey, III, Chair

**Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2008**