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GREENVILLE – The speculation as to whether Fire Chief Larry Legere is on a leave of absence or has resigned his position is over.

According to Selectman Kathy Washburn, in an email sent to the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript on Wednesday, July 23, Legere is no longer the fire chief for the town of Greenville because he resigned his position. The selectman refused to comment further because she said the matter was considered to be employee-related.

After further investigation by the Monadnock Ledger-Transcript, it was discovered that Legere resigned his position with the town after being sentenced at the Newburyport District Court in May, to six months in prison at the Correctional Alternative Center in Lawrence, Mass., for driving while intoxicated in Amesbury, Mass., on Sunday, September 23, 2007.

Legere was sentenced to mandatory jail time because it was his third drunk driving offense in Massachusetts, and under the strongly enforced Melanie's Law, regardless of the fact that his other two drunk driving offenses occurred in 1978, and 1989, respectively, the judge had no other choice.

During his court appearance on May 29, 2008, Legere plead guilty to operating under the influence and a marked lanes violation, and in addition to receiving mandatory prison time, received an eight-year loss of license, \$1,000 fine, \$250 fine, \$250 head injury fee, and a \$90 victim-witness assessment.

According to an arrest report prepared by the Amesbury Police Department, Legere's blue 1994 Dodge pickup truck was stopped on Lions Mouth Road in Amesbury, after police saw his vehicle weaving all over the road. The report said that Legere's vehicle was crossing over the double solid line in the road by about three feet, and crossing over the white fog line by one foot, several times.

Upon being stopped, the police report said that Legere admitted to having four drinks at the Tens Club in Salisbury, Mass., and that his demeanor was polite, respectful and apologetic. The report also states that Legere submitted to a Chemical Breath Test and scored a .13 percent, both before and after the machine was calibrated.

While a new fire chief for the town is still being sought, Washburn said that Assistant Fire Chief Jim Stimans, and several of the fire wards will share the well-liked fire chief's responsibilities.

Legere is the second town official to be arrested and charged with a crime in the past six months. In March, town treasurer Zebediah Kellogg-Roe was indicted on six counts of aggravated felonious sexual assault for allegedly raping a 12-year-old girl in his home six years ago. If found guilty, Kellogg-Roe could face up to 120 years in prison, as well as \$24,000 in fines.