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GREENVILLE – Speculation as to whether Larry Legere has resigned his position as fire chief, or just requested a leave of absence has been spreading like wildfire around town. So far, no official statement has been made.

According to minutes from a June 11 meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Legere contacted Deputy Forest Fire Ward Jim Stimans sometime around Wednesday, Jun. 4, to request a leave of absence, and to turn over all his fire equipment gear.

The selectmen's minutes indicate that Stimans, along with Forest Fire Ward Peter Vaillancourt, and Deputy Forest Fire Ward Charles Buttrick, offered to take over Legere's responsibilities with the fire department, and that the selectmen were already aware of the situation, which is indicative by Selectman Kathy Washburn telling the men that the board was working on a resolution.

It's the problem that led up to the resolution that's got residents wondering, especially because the Board of Selectmen are refusing to publicly comment.

During the meeting, Buttrick told Washburn and the rest of the board that he and the other two men would like to be involved in the resolution process, since they are also the ones who will be involved in the hiring process should the time come to select a new fire chief.

He also mentioned that to date, no one has received a letter of resignation from Legere, which makes it difficult for the three men to know how to proceed.

In the meantime, Buttrick said Stimans would be in charge of approving any invoices that came into the fire department, but he did wonder aloud who would attend all of the committee meetings normally attended by Legere in the capacity of fire chief.

It is obvious from the minutes that the Board of Selectmen did not want to make a final decision concerning Legere's status with the town, as the group told the three firemen to proceed as if everything was normal, and to treat Legere's absence as though he were on vacation.