

CHAPTER 6 Legal Affairs

Section 6.1 Power of Selectmen

- 6.1.1 The selectmen shall be agents of the town to institute, prosecute and defend any and all claims, actions, and proceedings to which the town is a party or in which the interests of the town are or may be involved

Approved June 1, 1955

Section 6.2 Compromise and Settlement of Claims

- 6.2.1 The selectmen may at their discretion compromise or settle any claim or suit to which the town is a party, which does not require the payment by the town of an amount in excess of \$100. No settlement of a claim or suit obligating the town in an amount in excess of \$100 shall be made except as authorized by law, without the consent of the town meeting

Approved June 1, 1955

Section 6.3 Appointment of Town Counsel

- 6.3.1 The selectmen shall annually in June after the final adjournment of the annual town meeting appoint a member in good standing of the bar to serve as town counsel for the term of one year from the first day of July following until his successor is appointed and enters the performance of his duties They shall likewise fill any vacancy in said office for the unexpired term, and may employ special counsel to assist the town counsel whenever, in their Judgment, necessity arises

Approved as amended June 14, 1994

Section 6.4 Duties of Town Counsel

- 6.4.1 It shall be the duty of the town counsel to conduct the prosecution, defense or compromise claims, actions or proceedings to which the town is a party, and the prosecution of actions or proceedings by or on behalf of any town officer, board or committee as such when the selectmen, having determined that any right or interests of the town are or may be involved therein shall so request; to conduct proceedings brought by or against the assessors before the Appellate Tax Board; to assist in the prosecution of complaints for violation of any bylaw of the town, when requested so to do by the board or officer enforcing the same, to examine and report upon titles to all land to be acquired by the town; to prepare or approve contracts, bonds, deeds and other legal instruments in which the town is a party or in which any right or interest of the town is involved; to appear at any and all hearings on behalf of the town whenever his services may be required; and generally to advise and act for the town officers, boards, and committees upon and in legal matters touching the duties of their respective offices.

Approved June 1, 1955