

TOWN OF TISBURY
SELECT BOARD
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TOWN OF TISBURY SETTLES MEISNER LITIGATION

The Town has reached a full and complete settlement of all claims with the Town's former Police Lieutenant, Eerik Meisner. With an eye towards resolving this matter amicably and taking the Town of Tisbury's best interests into consideration, the Town authorized the Town's insurer to engage in settlement discussions with Lt. Meisner's representatives early on in the litigation. The Town engaged a private mediator with Mr. Meisner, through counsel, and the mediator strongly recommended settlement as compared to protracted litigation that likely would last more than five (5) years given courthouse procedures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While we believed strongly in the Town's defenses and believed the facts, as we understood them, to be favorable to the Town, we concluded that settlement was the best course of action for the Town and the Police Department.

The agreement provides that Meisner will release the Town from all claims, and withdraw the pending matters against the Town, with prejudice, in exchange for a lump sum settlement payment and a letter of reference from the Town Administrator. The settlement figure arrived at is \$400,000, of which \$350,000 will be paid by the Town's insurer. The agreement expressly provides that the agreement is not to be construed as an admission of liability, and we firmly believe that to be the case.

We wish Mr. Meisner the best in his future endeavors. We will make no other comments about the litigation or Mr. Meisner and we consider this matter closed.