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## No disciplinary action taken against chief

**By Meghan Carey**  
**Staff writer**

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ATKINSON - Selectmen refused to disclose last night how they handled misuse-of-authority complaints against the police chief after meeting with him in closed session and announcing the matter is resolved.

"The board has done what they deemed necessary," said Chairman Jack Sapia, responding to formal complaints filed against police Chief Philip Consentino by former Budget Committee Chairman Mark Acciard and resident Brian Kaye.

Both Acciard and Kaye have said they received letters from Consentino on town letterhead that they interpret as threatening. They have asked selectmen to discipline the chief for inappropriately using his position of authority.

After coming out of the 35-minute closed-door meeting last night, Sapia said there have been complaints lodged and nonpublic sessions held to address employee issues, but did not refer to Consentino. He said the complaints would be responded to in writing and would not be discussed during the meeting.

Kaye, who received his letter in early 2006 concerning a dispute with the chief over a communications tower on Hog Hill, and Acciard, who received his letter in late September, were on the agenda to speak last night. But both were quickly stopped by Sapia, who said it is against state law to discuss personnel issues in public.

In his letter to Acciard, Consentino told him to stop posting messages about the chief and his family on an anonymous blog about Atkinson news. Acciard said the only posts of his on the blog come under his own name.

Kaye and Acciard were skipped on the agenda, but got up to speak when Sapia called for comments from the public at the end of the meeting. Acciard began by saying he would abide by the request to leave personnel issues out and started to ask about being notified by mail when he was cut off by Sapia.

"Mark, we're not going to address that in public session at all ..." he said. "We will not address this issue beyond my statement."

Consentino had left the meeting by that point. His wife, Joanne, who had been reading a book in the hallway throughout the meeting, left with him.

Acciard went on to say Sapia is always saying he wants the board to move on and that each time the former Budget Committee chairman has gotten into a legal battle with Consentino, he has attempted to move on with his life.

Sapia said the board did what it thought was appropriate and is committed to moving on. He asked if Acciard could do the same.

Selectman Paul Sullivan agreed it was time to move on.

"We had a nonpublic," Sullivan said. "And that's what we feel we needed to do."

Kaye asked selectmen if he would be invited to a nonpublic session to discuss his complaint and was told the board had already read his complaint and did what was necessary.

"We aren't required to take action," Sapia told him.