

1) Selectboards filling vacancies on school boards dates back to when school "boards" were really just subcommittees of selectboards, and that was never changed when school directors became duly elected officials.

2) Following that, would it make sense for fire departments to fill vacancies on police departments, or vice versa?

3) And following *that*, I heard "balance of power" repeatedly in '05, but when I asked reps of selectboards if they would then be OK with school boards filling vacancies on selectboards that was seen as crazy talk.

This doesn't have to be "us or them", an attitude I suspect will be prevalent from some those I see listed as testifying this afternoon. There is absolutely no reason selectboards and school boards should take to posturing, but the bottom line is school board members know better than anybody what it takes to be a school board member. I can tell you it is not as simple as some think, and people who run for a school board intending to "straighten things out" learn that quite quickly if they are elected.

Ken