

OFFICER: Attorney to appeal

First Selectman George R. Temple recused himself. He said he did so to remove any issue whatsoever of prejudice and to be as fair as possible.

McKane said a complaint was filed on April 29, 2012, against Soules.

According to meeting minutes read by McKane, two witnesses testified separately in the executive session, Denise Koundry, the complainant, and State Police Sgt. Kelly Kraynak of the internal affairs unit.

The charges listed in the selectmen's motion were taken from an internal affairs report completed by Connecticut State Police, McKane said.

Haney said, "We felt as though the witnesses were credible in the description of the events that transpired on

April 29, 2012."

Town officials Wednesday wouldn't elaborate on the details of the complaint or the internal affairs report.

The Republican-American on Wednesday filed a Freedom of Information request with the town to obtain a copy of the complaint against Soules.

Connecticut State Police spokesman Lt. J. Paul Vance said state police completed an internal affairs investigation and turned the report over to the town.

Soules' attorney, Gregory Cerritelli, said the allegations have been described as Soules either pushed or nudged a resident during an investigation.

"He has been serving the people of Oxford since 2007," Cerritelli said. "He is a decorated police officer. He has

no prior discipline at all. Whatever happened last night is grossly disproportionate."

The selectmen's decision will be aggrieved, he said.

"Undoubtedly, this will be overturned when we go before the state Labor Board," Cerritelli said.

An Army veteran, Soules, 29, was hired as a police officer on March 26, 2007, according to town officials. His annual salary is \$55,786.

The closed session Tuesday lasted about two hours.

"It's not something we want to do," McKane said. "Sometimes in the best interest of town, these things have to happen."

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No pay during officer's leave

BY QUANNAH LEONARD
REPUBLICAN-AMERICAN

OXFORD — A local police officer who has been accused of improper use of force, intentionally lying and not displaying the proper attitude or demeanor of a town employee has been suspended without pay for two months.

The Board of Selectmen on Tuesday approved a motion, 2-0, to suspend Gary Soules for 60 days without pay, effective immediately for sustained allegations of improper use of force, intentional act of deception, failure to display the proper attitude and demeanor of an employee of the town's police department, Selectman David W. McKane confirmed Wednesday.

McKane and Selectman Jeffrey J. Haney Sr. approved that motion after the selectmen conducted an executive session on a personnel matter involving Soules.

See OFFICER, Page 4B