

## **A.G. Idle Threats As Selectmen Rack Up 6 More OML Violations**

After Seven months and three extensions of the time to respond the Massachusetts Attorney General found the Carver Board of Selectmen guilty of 6 more counts of violating the Open meeting Law in the Rick LaFond contract fiasco. This follows other citations in late 2011. Martha Coakley's weak kneed enforcement of the open meeting law is an outrage and a joke. How many times does one have to break the law before meaningful penalties are assessed?

The AG rejected a slam dunk seventh violation when she accepted the "My dog ate my homework defense". Unbelievably the AG agreed that the response by the Board of Selectmen violated the Open Meeting Laws 10 day response requirement but stated that there "it appears this violation was the result of confusion surrounding the transmission of Ms. Padovani's request, rather than intent" Jack Angley failed to open a complaint that was hand delivered to him by Padovani at a selectmens meeting. The AG excused the inexcusable stating that Padovani did not verbally indicate what was in the envelope and "thus the Chair had no way of knowing it contained an item requiring immediate action" Accepting that defense by a chairman of the Board of Selectmen that has shown nothing but disdain for the requirements of the open meeting law and for citizens like Padovani who enforce it's requirements shreds what little credibility remains for OML enforcement in Massachusetts.

In December 2011 the Attorney General threatened nullification "we caution the Board that future violations may result in nullification of any action taken. Perhaps six additional violations and one saved by the dog violations are insufficient to trigger the threatened actions.

<http://www.fixcarver.com/OML2012%2091.pdf>