

Tewksbury Chief Cleared; Townfolk 'Rough' Selectman

TEWKSBURY, Aug. 23 — Chief of Police Cyril L. Barker was cleared of all charges today following a riotous public hearing in which one member of the Board of Selectmen was "roughed-up" by angry town-folk.

Selectman Victor Cluff was jostled by the crowd which demanded an immediate decision on Chief Barker's status. Cluff and Selectman Edward Sullivan had voted to suspend Barker nine days ago on charges of insubordination and failure to co-operate with the board.

The selectmen had charged that Chief Barker had failed to wear his uniform while on duty, to appear at meetings of the board when requested, and to submit a schedule of 24-hour police duty.

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Barker declared that he wore his uniform upon occasions designated by law and added that in many cases he could work better and more effectively without a uniform. He added that two of the three selectmen had pointedly "refused co-operation" and he had decided it was useless to attend board meetings.

Barker Refutes Schedule Plan

Barker also said that a 24-hour police schedule could not be accomplished with the present budget and personnel, and that to hire the necessary men and spend the money for their salaries would be illegal.

Four hundred town-folk packed into Town Hall cheered the police chief wildly as he denied the charges. The crowd resorted to violence when the Selectmen said they would announce their decision within 48 hours.

The board went into immediate session and cleared Barker.