Former New Boston officer to receive $160k from town

• Settlement:

Alexandra Drake had alleged her supervisor made inappropriate comments, had her falsify DWI report.

By MELISSA PROULX

Union Leader Correspondent

NEW BOSTON — Former police officer Alexandra Drake will receive $160,000 from the town for lost wages, compensatory damages, attorney’s fees and restitution in a settlement over allegations that her supervisor had made inappropriate comments about women.

The settlement is not an admission of guilt or any wrongdoing by the town, officials said.

Drake worked as a police officer in town from 2013 until 2015, both part and full time.

She alleged that Lt. Michael Masella, her supervisor at the time, made inappropriate comments to her about other women, including rating women who he pulled over based on their “rapability.”

“Masella also made comments to Drake about female drivers that he believed found him attractive, and developed what he called a ‘rapability’ scale,” the lawsuit read. “After a traffic stop, Masella would test Drake on whether a particular female driver was “rapable.””

Last year, Masella denied the claims but admitted to joking about female drivers finding him attractive.

Drake also claimed Masella had her falsify a 2014 DWI arrest report by making factually incorrect changes, according to court documents.

According to court documents, that report led to Drake’s firing from the department.

She claimed the report prevented her from getting a new job with the Manchester Police Department because New Boston Chief James Brace added her name to the state’s Laurie List, which includes officers with possible credibility issues.

Drake also said in the suit that Masella acted inappropriately outside of work, showing up to her home while she was off-duty and inviting her to his home in Florida for the weekend.

Drake filed the suit against the town’s selectmen, Brace and Masella after she was fired as well as a suit against Gary Fisher, a chief deputy sheriff for the Hillsborough County Sheriff’s Department who conducted an internal investigation.

As a part of the settlement, Drake has agreed to drop a lawsuit that claimed civil conspiracy, defamation, emotional distress and wrongful termination.

That case was officially closed on Nov. 2.

Masella retired from the New Boston department on July 8.