



EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

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DATE: 04/21/2020
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Executive Session held remotely via GoTo Meeting – 4:55 pm

Present: Carole Julius, Chairman; David Sheedy, Vice Chairman; William Dowling, Clerk

Absent:

Others Present: Brian Noble, Town Administrator, Rebecca Johnson, Administrative Assistant; Paul O'Brien, Acting Police Chief; Tim Harhen, Fire Chief; Jaime Kenny, Town Counsel

Chairman Julius announced the Selectmen were entering into Executive Session under MGL Chapter 30A, § 21 (a)(2) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining (Superior Officers, Fire Fighters Association) or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body as the chair so declares and not return to open session.

Mr. Dowling made a motion to move into Executive Session, Mr. Sheedy seconded. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Julius: Aye, Mr. Sheedy: Aye, Mr. Dowling: Aye. All were in favor, 3-0

Town Administrator, Mr. Noble stated the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the Fire Fighters Union Contract and Superior Officers Contract.

Mr. Noble stated, the Fire Fighters Union has agreed upon a contract and are ready to sign. After the Union signs the contract it will be put before the Selectmen for signature. He stated this contract is set to expire 6/30/2020 so they will begin negotiations soon on their next contract. Fire Chief, Tim Harhen left the meeting.

Jaime Kenny, Town Counsel was present to discuss the Superior Officers. Ms. Kenny reviewed changes that were included in the (MOA) Memorandum of Agreement. Some of the changes were the removal of comp time, the support to get out of Civil Service and a 2%, 2%, 2% each year for the three-year contract. Ms. Kenny highlighted, being in Civil Service inhibits the ability to hire qualified applicants. Acting Police Chief, Paul O'Brien stated that the Superior Officers were all on board with the agreement. Ms. Kenny stated the Superior Officers will vote to ratify this agreement. She stated that under the law they have a five-day period to post and vote.

Once it is ratified by the Union, the Board of Selectmen will announce the vote in an open session meeting but can vote in an executive session meeting.

There was a discussion regarding what would happen if the article regarding Civil Service failed at ATM. Ms. Kenny stated that since the Superior Officers have agreed to it we have met the bargaining obligation, if it came around again they would not have a bargaining obligation. She stated that if the article fails that nothing changes in terms of the contract, they will not have to re-bargain into future contracts.

Mr. Noble stated acting Police Chief, Paul O'Brien showed great leadership throughout the whole negotiation process.

Mr. Dowling made a motion to adjourn from Executive Session at 5:25 pm, seconded Mr. Sheedy. All were in favor, 3-0

Roll Call Vote: Ms. Julius: Aye, Mr. Sheedy: Aye, Mr. Dowling: Aye. All were in favor, 3-0

William Dowling

Clerk

Board of Selectmen