

January 23, 2017
Selectboard Executive Session #2
Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls
8:15 PM

Present: Present were Selectpersons Chris Boutwell, Michael Nelson, Rich Kuklewicz, Town Administrator Steven Ellis, Atty. Layla Taylor

RE: Executive Session under G.L. c 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss collective bargaining strategy with respect to IBPO

Documents and Exhibits: None

Taylor: The petition is very broad. They're basically looking for a change in their representation. There is a provision of the law which prevents a petition from being pursued under what's called the Contract Bar Period. It's a certain period of time where the union is considered as being recognized. I think this falls outside of that contract bar window, so it's probably okay for any PBA to be petitioning now. The other piece of this is that the DLR, the agency that makes the determination, has sent over a request for information regarding how many units we have, who are the units made of, and can we send them copies of the most recently expired contracts. February 22nd is supposed to be a pre-hearing conference, but the opposing counsel requested a postponement because it's school vacation week, so it's probably going to be in March. At the pre-hearing conference, it'll essentially be the NEPBA, the Town reps (me, maybe the Chief, and Steve), and the union reps. I'll probably request it to be a telephone conference. The other issue, which the DLR will resolve, is your police unit was certified as a unit controlling patrol officers, detectives, and sergeants. There was an agreement that they would separate the two units, but that agreement also said that they'd bargain collectively. I don't know where the DLR is going to end up on whether or not to keep these two units combined or separated. It might be beneficial for the Town to assert a preference, and maybe the unions would be okay with that. It's possible that the NEPBA might say, "We want separate units, and we want to have a patrol detectives unit and one that is sergeants and lieutenants."

Kuklewicz makes a motion to close the executive session around the IBPO discussion. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye.

Approved:

 X Boutwell X Kuklewicz X Nelson

Release to the Public:

 X Yes _____ Not Yet 3/11/19 Date

Date Released to the Public: 3/12/19