

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

Present: Richard Kuklewicz, Michael Nelson, Chris Boutwell, selectmen; Steven Ellis, Town Administrator; Chip Dodge, Chief of Police.

RE: Executive Session under G.L. c30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss collective bargaining strategy with respect to NEPBA

- Ellis noted that in negotiations, the Town made offers related to longevity or other non-base salary increases, as was discussed at the Board's previous meeting.
- There was some hope that their representation would be interested in a quick settlement and that what we were offering would equal or surpass the 0.5% additional COLA request the union wanted for FY19.
- The union reps who were present did not react favorably. So the next step in the process is for the Town to communicate with Sara Skibiski at the Department of Labor Relations (DLR) and to move forward with a mediation process.
- If the offer the Town made was accepted, we believe it would have required a \$10,400 retroactive appropriation for FY17, but been relatively budget neutral in FY18 due to retirements in FY17.
- It's very unclear precisely where this will go.
- Kuklewicz inquired whether the Town has to pay the mediator. Discussed whether the Board should have a strategy session with counsel, Layla Taylor, and give Mr. Ellis or a Board member authorization to make a final offer, if it comes to that.
- Ellis signaled his intention to ask Ms. Taylor whether there's any additional cost to the Town associated with the mediator and also ask her when we will we know what we need to know in order to set some parameters in terms of what offer might be pre-authorized.
- Dodge noted that if mediation comes to an impasse, then it goes to arbitration. Mr. Kuklewicz acknowledged it is time to take the next step.

Nelson makes a motion to adjourn Executive Session. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Nelson - Aye, Boutwell - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Nelson makes a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:32 PM. 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