

**March 12, 2018**  
**Selectboard Executive Session**  
**Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls**  
**7:30 PM**

**Present:** Richard Kuklewicz, Michael Nelson, Chris Boutwell, selectmen; Steven Ellis, Town Administrator; Chris Bonnett, Acting Chief of Police; Layla Taylor, legal counsel

**RE:** Executive Session under G.L. c. 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss collective bargaining strategy with respect to NEPBA. Votes may be taken.

**Documents and Exhibits:** None

As outlined by Ms. Taylor, items brought up during mediation regarding both tentative contracts (one for patrolmen and detectives, and one for sergeants) include:

- The contracts would be for three years.
- A central issue is around wages; they would like an additional ½% COLA in the final year.
- Town is concerned about parity within the units that exist in the town.
- Negotiations for the next contract will begin next December.
- Alternatives were put forth in mediation: (1) increasing the uniform allowance by \$100, (2) a one-time commitment bonus, and (3) a fitness bonus. Uniform allowance can be used for other specific expenses (i.e., a gym membership or target practice).
- Court time; they would like a 48-hour notice for cancellations.
- Discussion regarding the School Resource Officer will be tabled for now.
- Canine Officer's stipend was increased, and they request it be retroactive to 07/01/17.

The Selectmen indicated that that they would prefer to stand firm and not increase the COLA for at least one more negotiating round as they wish to honor the principle of equity across unions. Most other items appear acceptable.

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn Executive Session. Nelson seconded, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye*

*Boutwell makes the motion to adjourn regular meeting. Nelson seconded, approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - 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