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Town of Chelmsford
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Chelmsford, MA 01824

TOWN OF CHELMSFORD

PATRICIA E. DZURIS

Virtual meeting via Zoom

TOWN CLERK

June 1, 2020
Executive Session – Segment 1

Attending:

Kenneth Lefebvre, Chairman
Pat Wojtas, Vice Chairman
Emily Antul, Clerk
George Dixon, Selectman
Virginia Crocker Timmins, Selectman

Paul Cohen, Town Manager
Michael McCall, Asst. Town Manager

Note that the minutes for Executive Session on this date are provided in three segments. This is the first segment.

The purpose of this Executive Session was to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Firefighters' union and strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Clerical union. Discussion began on these topics at 10:35PM.

Mr. McCall recapped the actions taken by the Town's Labor Counsel and counsel for the Firefighters' union prior to beginning an arbitration hearing. The sides were able to reach a settlement, negating the need for arbitration. Mr. McCall reviewed the settlement, which included 2% wage increases for each year of the contract, a 1% increase in the EMT stipend, and elimination of the bottom step of the wage scale. Other items clarified hours of work, station/group bidding, recruit training, and light duty.

Selectman Timmins asked about the issue previously raised regarding the requirement for all Firefighters to have a CDL License. Mr. McCall noted that issue was dropped.

Motion: by Selectman Wojtas to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Chelmsford and Local 1839 International Association of Firefighters, dated May 14, 2020.

Seconded by Selectman Timmins.

Roll Call Vote:

Selectman Dixon: Aye
Selectman Antul: Aye
Selectman Wojtas: Aye
Selectman Timmins: Aye
Chairman Lefebvre: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous, 5-0.

Mr. McCall then spoke about the Clerical union settlement, which includes 2% wage increases for each of the three years of that contract.

Selectman Wojtas asked about the length of time that it took to reach this settlement, given that most other unions had agreed to the same terms relatively quickly when discussions began. Mr. McCall stated

that the union had hoped to negotiate higher increases, but given the impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on the economy, including municipal finances, they opted to accept this offer.

Motion: by Selectman Wojtas to approve the Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Chelmsford and Local 1703 AFSCME, Council 93 Clerical and Van Drivers, dated May 15, 2020.

Seconded by Selectman Antul.

Roll Call Vote:

Selectman Dixon: Aye

Selectman Antul: Aye

Selectman Wojtas: Aye

Selectman Timmins: Aye

Chairman Lefebvre: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous, 5-0.

Motion: by Selectman Wojtas to adjourn this Executive Session at 10:45PM, to return to Open Session. Seconded by Selectman Antul.

Roll Call Vote:

Selectman Dixon: Aye

Selectman Antul: Aye

Selectman Wojtas: Aye

Selectman Timmins: Aye

Chairman Lefebvre: Aye

Motion carries, unanimous, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Wojtas
Board of Selectmen

Supporting documents:

- Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Chelmsford and Local 1839 International Association of Firefighters, dated May 14, 2020

- Memorandum of Agreement between the Town of Chelmsford and Local 1703 AFSCME, Council 93 Clerical and Van Drivers, dated May 15, 2020