

Select Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
October 14, 2021, 6:30 pm

Present: Chair Brian R. Keyes, Selectman Louis J. Arcudi, Selectwoman Glenda A. Hazard, Town Administrator Diana Schindler

Executive Session:

In accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) (Purpose #3), to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and litigation that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining and litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares, which he does. (Clerical, DPW, Dispatch Units, DLR Case No. JLM-21-8830). * Board will return to Open Session at 6:45 pm

Chair Keyes convened the regular meeting at 6:45PM.

Old Business

Review and Sign MOAs for Clerical, DPW, and Dispatch (Vote)*

Chair Keyes stated that the Select Board has ratified the Dispatch MOA in a previous meeting. The Select Board will be discussing the DPW MOA at this meeting, Clerical MOA is not ready to ratify. Town Administrator Schindler stated that regarding the DPW MOA, the list of holidays will be amended, adding Juneteenth effective FY22. The Town is agreeing to amend the language around hours of work to add a few weeks of longer workdays, Monday-Thursday, with a shorter day on Friday to coincide with daylight savings time, there will be shorter days in the winter and longer days in the summer. On Call Duty was amended from \$150 to \$200. Wages is as follows: July 1, 2020 – 0% increase and July 1, 2021 – 4% increase.

Selectwoman Hazard moved to accept the MOA for DPW as presented. Selectman Arcudi seconded the motion.

Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Present: Chair Ed Burt, Member James Morin, Member Donald Cooper, Superintendent of Water/Sewer Tim Watson

Joint Meeting with Water & Sewer Commission at 7 pm

SL Environmental Law Group, (Joint PFAS Litigation) Kenneth A Sansone to present and discuss

Attorney Kenneth Sansone provided a presentation for the Boards regarding using product defect law to shift treatment costs back to polluters. At SL Environmental they exclusively represent communities in water contamination cases. SL Environmental recently obtained \$48 million verdict as lead trial counsel for Pomona, CA in perchlorate case. SL Environmental handles all of the cases thru a contingency fee arrangement. The firm pays the cost of the litigation as it goes along and SL Environmental is paid the costs of their fees if there is a successful recovery. There is no out of pocket costs to the municipality. The SL Environmental firm will investigate and discover where the PFAS was used and where it came from.

Ed Burt stated an agreement will not be signed at tonight's meeting. The Select Board and the Water/Sewer Commission will be meeting again in executive session to further discuss the litigation process and review the draft legal services agreement.

Selectman Arcudi moved to adjourn the joint meeting. Selectwoman Hazard seconded the motion.
Arcudi – Aye, Hazard – Aye, Keyes – Aye

Chair Keyes dissolved the meeting at 7:45PM

Submitted by:

Lindsay Mercier

Lindsay Mercier, Executive Assistant

Adopted: _____