

Selectmen's Meeting
Tuesday, July 25, 2017
Selectmen's Meeting Room
11:02 p.m. - Executive Session

The meeting was called to order at 11:02 p.m. and the following members were present: Tony Vegnani, Shawn Harris, Maura Curran, John Danehey.

Also present was Patricia Vinchesi, John Clifford and W. Michael Stewart.

On a motion by Mr. Harris seconded by Mr. Vegnani, the Board entered into Executive Session after a roll call vote to discuss strategy relative to collective bargaining – fire and deployment of security personnel.

Vegnani	aye
Danehey	aye
Harris	aye
Curran	aye

Fire Unfair Labor Practice relative to MOU and Bargaining Items/Meeting

Labor Counsel John Clifford attended the meeting to discuss with the Board the Town's recent filing of an unfair labor practice with the Massachusetts Department of Labor Relations for its failure to comport with the provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) executed in May with the fire union about multiple labor-management and contract issues. As a result, the scheduled bargaining to discuss ground rules with the union on July 19 was cancelled.

Attorney Clifford explained that negotiations with the fire union would need to focus on residency and staffing. He presented the Board with an analysis showing that the Department personnel regularly do not respond to recalls. This creates a staffing and overtime challenge and a large part of that is that the law requiring firefighters to reside 10 miles as the crow flies from the Department was passed by the Legislature for a reason. Attorney Clifford stressed to the Board the critical importance of standing firm on the residency issue and the subsequent effect the historical high usage of sick leave has had. A firefighter residing in Plymouth has not responded to any recalls in the past year. It is expected that with the departure of the Town Administrator the other unions will want to settle their contracts before she leaves. For eight years the Town has been consistent that no union will receive a higher COLA than any other, yet Fire began negotiations with 7% over three years and went into arbitration at 4% when the Town pattern was 1.5, 1.75, 2 and 2 three years ago.

The Board stated that other unions not be impeded by fire issues and to continue to move forward. It was observed that with the implementation of the 24/7 shift most of the department

has a second job and that has become their primary occupation as the 24/7 shift only requires about 8 days a month.

Deployment of Security Personnel

Chief Stewart attended the meeting at the Board's request to discuss three recent opioid related deaths in the area. Chief Stewart explained the shift in focus from jail time to recovery and rehabilitation and that there was a new program started in January===Plymouth County Outreach (PCO) that is making great inroads. Scituate has a strong data base that has been provided to PCO which assists them in their work and lets the SPD track recovery. The widespread use and availability of Narcan has also decreased actual reporting. Many addicts do not go to rehab for fear of being arrested on outstanding warrants or go to their parents who might want to admit them. That is not happening with new programs. Chief Stewart stated that 40% of Scituate kids overdose outside of the town. Now the SPD will be notified. The program includes no jail time and the court now has a drug court to provide inroads in providing resources, rehabilitation and assisting with long-term (2-3 years) care.

The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:10 a.m.

Patricia Vinchesi
Recorder

Board of Selectmen Executive Session Meeting Minutes for July 25, 2017

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Maura C. Curran, Chairman

Anthony V. Vegnani, Vice Chairman

John F. Danehey, Clerk

Shawn Harris