

**MINUTES – EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order by Ms. O’Keeffe at 9:01 p.m.

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Gerry Weiss, Aaron Hayden, Diana Stein, Alisa Brewer, Stephanie O’Keeffe

Absent: (none)

Present: Town Manager Larry Shaffer

**PURPOSE**

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

**DISCUSSION**

Mr. Shaffer informed the Select Board about plans to engage the unions in discussions about COLA concessions for FY11. He emphasized that because the COLAs are obligated by the current contracts, any change would require agreement of the unions, and that they may opt to not do that. He talked about the different cost savings associated with deferring the 3.5% COLA scheduled to take effect June 30, 2010 by six months as well as relinquishing COLAs for the full year. COLA concessions could make a significant dent in the FY11 projected deficit, and similar conversations are expected to take place between the Schools and the Teachers Union.

There were questions about the 3.5% kicking in on the final day of the current contract, and the wisdom of such an arrangement. Mr. Shaffer said that it had seemed to be a good plan when the contracts were negotiated. The desire for the Select Board to be kept more informed about such strategies and plans during negotiation of new contracts was emphasized.

Mr. Shaffer said that there was no progress to report on settling the Fire Fighters contract.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTED** unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn the executive session at 9:54 p.m.

-- Respectfully submitted by Stephanie O’Keeffe