

MINUTES – EXECUTIVE SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. O’Keeffe at 9:39 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Absent: (none)

Present: Town Manager Larry Shaffer, Human Resources/Human Rights Director Eunice Torres, Labor Counsel Jim Connors

PURPOSE

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

DISCUSSION

Mr. Shaffer introduced Mr. Connors, who handles union negotiations for the Town. Mr. Connors provided background on the history of negotiations with the fire union since the expiration of the last contract. He talked about changes in union leadership as among the challenges to getting a new contract settled. The Town’s desire for flexibility to hire non-firefighter EMTs is a key issue, and a tentative agreement that would have removed that option in return for smaller Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) was rejected by the union.

There was discussion about the processes of mediation and arbitration, and speculation about how each side might fare in arbitration.

Mr. Connors said that the situation is no closer to resolution than it was a year ago.

By general agreement, it was decided to not schedule another update now, but to do so when there is news on the issue.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously by roll call vote to adjourn the executive session at 10:36 p.m.

-- Respectfully submitted by Stephanie O’Keeffe