

SELECT BOARD MEETING

Executive Session

Monday, May 16, 2016

Band Room, ARMS

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

Present: Alisa Brewer, Connie Kruger, Doug Slaughter, Andy Steinberg, Jim Wald

Staff: Peter Hechenbleikner, Temporary Town Manager, HR Director Deborah Radway

Meeting called to order by Ms. Brewer at 6:25 p.m.

Steinberg related the nature of negotiations with Ms. Capriola. He indicated that the negotiation process has been positive and cordial. He and Slaughter, Radway and Hechenbleikner met with Capriola on Monday, May 9 and established a positive tone to the process. Capriola gave the Town a proposal on May 9 and the Town countered that proposal in an email on May 12 and held a negotiating phone conference call with her on Friday, May 13. The negotiating team discussed with her in detail her issues with pay, health insurance, disability insurance, housing, auto and phone allowances and pension.

Capriola stated that a high priority item for her was nine to 12 months of severance for termination for any reason, and 12 months' severance for a change of government that substantially diminished or eliminated the Town Manager position. On this item the negotiating team indicated that it would have to seek direction on from the Select Board on Monday night, May 16. In addition to pay and benefits, Capriola indicated ongoing concerns including the Charter Commission process, the comparative cost of housing in Amherst, and the significant difference in pension benefits between Connecticut and Massachusetts. In the conference call on 5-13-16, she indicated that she would get back to the Town on Monday.

On Monday morning 5-16-16 Capriola called Radway and indicated that she was withdrawing from the position. Radway asked if there was anything that could change her mind and the response was no. On 5-16-15 the Town negotiating team agreed that they should approach Mr. Bockelman to determine whether or not he is still interested in the position. Bernie Lynch reported that Bockelman expressed his continued interest in the position in Amherst.

The Select Board authorized Mr. Steinberg and Mr. Slaughter, with support from Ms. Radway and Mr. Hechenbleikner, to find out whether Mr. Bockelman's requested salary and benefits would be in line with the Town's position.

Due to the sensitive nature of the negotiations it was agreed that there would be no public comment at this time.

On motion by Brewer seconded by Kruger the Board voted to adjourn the Executive Session at 7:01 p.m. on a roll call vote: Y Brewer, Y Kruger, Y Slaughter, Y Steinberg, Y Wald

Submitted by

Peter Hechenbleikner,
Temporary Town Manager