

Board of Selectmen Meeting – December 7, 2012
Held at: Felix Juliani Meeting Room, Town Hall
Present: Tsagaris, Gibbs, Searle, Babson, McCauley
Also present: Larsen, Robinson
Call to order: Meeting called to order at 8:00 am.

1. Citizen Speak

None.

2. Executive Session

At 8:01 the Board was polled all aye to go into executive session with representatives of the School Committee and Human Resources Board to discuss strategy for collective bargaining and litigation.

Sheryl Strother, Marc Waldman, Chief Terrence Cunningham and representatives of the School Committee (Diane Campbell, Wendy Paul, KC Kato, Suzy Littlefield, Tere Ramos, Sal Petralia, and Judy Belliveau) and the Human Resources Board (Susan Hurwitz, Ilissa Povich and Susan Adler) joined the Board.

Mr. Larsen reviewed the proposed health insurance changes being contemplated under the aegis of M.G.L. Ch. 32B, Sections 21-23. He noted the severe financial pressures the Town is facing, particularly in the area of employee benefit costs, and the potential savings associated with a transition to the West Suburban Health Group's "Benchmark" plans. He also reviewed the potential timetable for accepting the related statute.

Ms. Campbell noted the School Committee had met the previous afternoon with Kevin Feeley, the Town's Special Counsel on health insurance matters.

Mr. Waldman noted the added uncertainty associated with the Group Insurance Commission's ongoing public bid process relating to the plans it offers. Changes in the GIC's most heavily subscribed plan will potentially reset the benchmark plan provisions that communities need to be aware of.

The Selectmen thanked all those present for their input and agreed to take up the matter again on Monday evening, December 10th.

The staff members, School Committee representatives and HR Board representatives left the room and the Selectmen deliberated further on the matter. The consensus of the Board is that the potential benefits associated with the proposed changes do not outweigh the distractions to be caused during the upcoming collective bargaining with the Teacher, Police Patrolmen and Superior Officers. It was agreed that this matter should not be included on the Board agenda for next Monday night, and Mr. Larsen should call Mr. Petralia to suggest he not call the President of the Teachers union to advise him of the Board's intended consideration of this matter.

Mr. Larsen then reviewed the request received from Superintendent of Schools David Lussier regarding the indemnification of Andrew Keough with respect to \$2,640 of legal fees he incurred with respect to a matter involving a student. Mr. Larsen noted this request appears to comply with the Selectmen's Indemnification Policy approved in July, 1990.

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the Superintendent's request to reimburse an employee for \$2,640 of legal fees.

At 10:00 the meeting was adjourned.