

**Board of Selectmen Executive Session
Stow Town Building
March 10, 2020**

Present: Selectmen James Salvie, Brian Burke, Cortni Frecha, and Tom Ryan.

Also present: Town Administrator Bill Wrigley.

At 9:02 p.m. Mr. Burke moved to convene in Executive Session, pursuant to MGL C. 30A, sect. 21(a)(3) for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining and pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, and section 21(a) (6), for the purpose of considering the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body, and to review Executive Session minutes, and to adjourn thereafter. Ms. Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Ms. Frecha, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, Mr. Salvie, aye, and Mr. Burke, aye.

Discussion of the Police Union Contract

Town Administrator Wrigley recommended a salary increase for Chief Marino that includes a 2.5% COLA and an additional 1% merit increase. The total dollar increase for this merit adjustment is \$1,250. When added to the 2.5% COLA, his total annual salary will be \$129,867.

The proposed police union contract adjustments include:

- A \$2/hour increase in detail pay for 2021 to \$51/hour and an additional \$1/hour increase in both 2022 and 2023. These increases affect only private details; there is no budget impact on the Town.
- The Town will now provide compensatory time-off for police officers as we currently provide dispatchers who work Christmas and Thanksgiving.
- An increase in the maximum employee annual longevity pay from \$750 to \$1,000.
- An increase in annual stipends for both the Prosecutor and Safety Office positions from \$1,000 to \$1,500.
- A 2.5% add on to the annual base pay for the position of Junior Detective.
- A 5% add on to the annual base pay for the position of Senior Detective.
- In return for these added benefits we have been able to reduce call back minimum pay from 4 to 2 hours.
- Also, any officer's request time off for thanksgiving, Christmas Eve or day, and New Year's Eve or day will only be approved if the shift can be filled voluntarily. There will be no order-in shift coverage.

The total dollar value for these proposed contract provisions is approximately \$18,000 - \$20,000.

Discussion of the Fire Union Contract

The proposed Fire Union Contract benefits include:

- An increase in the annual stipend for both the SAFE Coordinator and Mechanic from \$250 to \$1000.
- Provide an annual stipend of \$1,000 for both the Training Coordinator and Personal Protective Equipment Coordinator.
- An increase total employee accrued sick time bank from 120 to 150 hours.
- An increase annual uniform allowance from \$500/employee to \$650/employee.
- Provide EMT-B License renewal reimbursement.
- Increase the total annual vacation days by 1 day to 25.

The total annual budget impact is approximately \$4,850.

High Rock Church

The Selectmen discussed the recent decision by the Library Trustees that they were no longer interested in purchasing the High Rock Church on Great Road. There remains interest in the property given the location in Town Center, and the fact that it is adjacent to Town Center Park and could serve as a location for parking for the park as well as the South Acton Shuttle. There is no other town department that has expressed specific interest. Recognizing that land at that location has some potential value to the Town, however, the Selectmen agreed to put on the warrant for Annual Town Meeting an article for the purchase of the church at an unspecified value, and to ask Conservation Coordinator Kathy Sferra (who has been negotiating with the church) to express to the owners of the church the Town's possible interest in acquisition at a lower price that reflected the lack of utility of the building.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Sampson

Executive Assistant