

Executive Session

Board of Selectmen Meeting

Remote Participation Only

September 22, 2020

Present: Chairman Jason Balboni, Selectmen Gail Barmakian, Gregory Coogan, Brian Packish, Ryan Ruley. Also present: Town Administrator Robert Whritenour, Executive Assistant Alice Ryan Butler.

Executive Session

Selectman Barmakian motioned to enter into Executive Session to conduct contract negotiations with non union personnel and to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's litigating position, not returning to open session, seconded by Selectman Coogan. Vote was:

***Chairman Balboni Aye
Selectman Barmakian Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Packish Aye
Selectman Ruley Aye***

Town Administrator Whritenour and Police Chief Blake have revised and extended the Chief's contract. There will be payment for his additional services.

On another issue, Attorney David Apfel provided an overview to the case that involved the charge that the Fire Department overbilled ambulance charges to Medicare. He reported that the end is in sight, he cautiously predicted that the Government would "walk away" without criminal charges. The Town might be responsible for payment of overbilled charges beyond the base fee. Former Chief Rose's Attorney spoke to a well placed source who feels the amount of money is so small, it should not be treated as a Federal or criminal matter. Without Covid19, this would probably be over within a month or two, now it might be January or February.

John Rose committed fraud, Matt Bradley covered up. There is an email that confirms a phone call. All overbilling totals \$4,000 in 2014 and \$7,300 in 2011. They claim that fraud was broader. With respect to all off Island trips, but they have no evidence, but they are looking for a mileage chart.

The Feds think Matt Bradley made false statements, just trying to get to John Rose. They liked Matt, feel he is a good guy. He has good Counsel so he will be "ok". Julie Brewer is no longer a suspect. John Rose's Attorney has talked to the Government, but John has not been asked to talk to them.

This should be ended by December or January without any more pain or large fees to the Town.

Attorney Apfel left the Meeting.

The Selectmen returned to the Police Chief's contract for his service as Public Safety Director.

The Chief will continue to serve as Police Chief while he oversees the Fire Department for a period of six months while they search for a new Fire Chief. His title will be Public Safety Director. He will have additional duties and salary. He will continue to serve as Police Chief if his contract is not renewed for the position of Public Safety Director. His current salary as Police Chief is \$139,749 plus 20% additional for the Quinn Bill. He will be given an additional 15% for his additional duties. The line in the contract regarding renegotiating will be struck.

Selectman Ruley motioned to accept the contract with Chief Erik Blake concerning his new position as Public Safety Director and acknowledging the stricken line regarding negotiations, seconded by Selectman Coogan. Vote was:

***Chairman Balboni Aye
Selectman Barmakian Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Packish Aye
Selectman Ruley Aye***

The Selectmen briefly discussed interim Fire Chief Schilling's contract and that it should be finalized by the end of the week. The Fire Department is pleased with the combination of Chief Schilling and Public Safety Director Blake.

Selectman Coogan motioned to adjourn at 7:06 p.m., seconded by Selectman Packish. Vote was:

***Chairman Balboni Aye
Selectman Barmakian Aye
Selectman Coogan Aye
Selectman Packish Aye
Selectman Ruley Aye***

Respectfully submitted,



Alice Ryan Butler
Executive Assistant