

TOWN OF BROOKFIELD
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
TOWN HALL, BANQUET ROOM

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2009

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Members of the public were asked to leave the room and the camera was turned off.

Chairman Mr. Heller called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. Other members present: Mr. Allen and Mr. O'Connell.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Called under Reason 3 of the Open Meeting Law: "To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the governmental body, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with union personnel."

Letter from Attorney Sullivan:

The Town received a letter from Attorney Sullivan, indicating that he was now the attorney for Chief Ross Ackerman and indicating that the Chief would soon be filing for an 111F injury on duty and an application for a disability retirement.

Mr. O'Connell reported on an informal conversation between Attorney Sullivan and the Town's Counsel Attorney Randazzo about a possible severance agreement. Selectmen discussed possible options for such an agreement that would hold the Town harmless from possible suits filed by the Chief and would result in his resignation.

Authorization:

Mr. O'Connell moved that the Board vote to authorize him to contact the Town Counsel to define a process for negotiating a resolution with Chief Ackerman that results in his resignation and cooperation in other pending matters; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted. Roll Call vote: Mr. Allen voted "aye"; Mr. O'Connell voted "aye"; Mr. Heller voted "aye".

Administrative Leave:

Mr. O'Connell moved to put Chief Ross Ackerman on unpaid administrative leave effective September 4, 2009, pending further discussions with the Chief and his attorney; Mr. Allen seconded; so voted. Roll Call vote: Mr. Allen voted "aye"; Mr. O'Connell voted "aye"; Mr. Heller voted "aye".

Pay for the Interim Acting Chief:

Selectmen had previously agreed that Acting Chief Welsh should be paid for his service as Acting Chief and that such a stipend should reflect his service from May 4, 2009 when he began that appointment. Mr. O'Connell suggested a 20% increase of his annual pay as an incentive. Mr. Allen suggested checking the by-law and that he should get paid at least the minimum of what the by-law indicated.

Because Sgt. Welsh is a member of the Police Association and negotiations are in progress, Brian Maser (K&P representative in the Union negotiations), argued that the Union needed to give its approval to the payment of a special stipend. Mr. O'Connell suggested that the Town retract its decision to go to mediation with the Police Union and instead schedule another negotiating session with the Union, including discussion of an agreement to compensate Sgt. Welsh for his service as Acting Chief. All agreed and Mr. O'Connell will contact Brian Maser to schedule such a session. Mr. O'Connell, as liaison to the Police, will indicate again to Sgt. Welsh the Town's interest in compensating him for his service as Acting Chief.

ADJOURNMENT:

At 3:29 pm, Mr. Allen moved to return to Open Session for the purposes of adjourning the meeting; Mr. O'Connell seconded; so voted.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Neylon, Administrative Assistant

Date approved by Board: _____

DATE RELEASED: 11/27/2012