

**January 23, 2017**  
**Selectboard Executive Session #3**  
**Town Hall, 1 Avenue A, Turners Falls**  
**8:30 PM**

**Present:** Present were Selectpersons Chris Boutwell, Michael Nelson, Rich Kuklewicz, Town Administrator Steven Ellis, Atty. Layla Taylor

**RE:** Executive Session under G.L. c 30A, Section 21 (a)(3) to discuss collective bargaining and litigation strategy with respect to the representation petition filed by the New England Police Benevolent Association, Inc. (NEPBA) at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Labor Relations, MCR-17-5728

**Documents and Exhibits:** None

Taylor: We are going to start working on the information request piece. I filed my appearance formally today and I'll get in touch with Margaret and opposing counsel, the NEPBA attorney, and say we're okay with moving the February 22nd pre-hearing, give us some other dates; I'll also request that it be via telephone conference. Usually if the IBPO is not going to contest, they'll send out a letter disclaiming interest in union representation, which then means we just have a pre-hearing. It's mostly just to figure out how we're going to define the unit and if we're going to go into a hearing on, for example, how it's going to be classified.

Nelson: Do we know anything about either the stature or the position of NEPBA versus IBPO?

Taylor: I've been negotiating with NEPBA. My experience is that they are very traditional sort of labor negotiators. Since they are new in Western Mass, they're a little bit more formal. Bob Dixon, IBPO is very informal, very familiar with the communities that he's worked with for a long time, as well as familiar with just sort of the Western Mass Labor Law folks. Essentially we're in the middle of labor negotiations, so if they do become the new representative, they're going to have to inherit in some sense the last bargaining position. They might try to ask for more, but I think we're still going to be in the same place. It looks like NEPBA is a growing organization, and they certainly look to grow out here in Western Mass.

*Kuklewicz makes a motion to adjourn the executive session regarding NEPBA at 9:17 PM. Boutwell seconded, unanimously approved. Boutwell - Aye, Nelson - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye.*

Approved:

X Boutwell      X Kuklewicz      X Nelson

Release to the Public:

X Yes      \_\_\_\_\_ Not Yet      3/11/19 Date

Date Released to the Public: 3/12/19