

Town of West Boylston Personnel Board

Minutes of Meeting

May 12, 2015

In Attendance: Maryjane Baer, Kelli Blank, Paul Bohanson, Rich McCarthy, Christine Mazeika, and Interim Town Administrator Nancy Lucier

The Chairperson, Ms. Baer opened the meeting at 7 p.m.

Roll call was taken.

The first item was the approval of the minutes of the last meeting on March 24, 2015. There were two issues with the minutes, not the least of which was correcting the Chairperson's name. The Clerk humbly apologized. Ms. Baer asked for a motion to approve the minutes subject to the edits. Ms. Blank made the motion and it was seconded by Mr. McCarthy.

The Board was unable to discuss the Wage & Classification Project as Don Jacobs was unable to attend the meeting. Ms. Baer was informed of his change of plans that morning.

The next item was a discussion on COLA. The budget that is being presented at Town Meeting includes a 1.5% COLA. Ms. Lucier said that at the Town Meeting the Personnel Board will be asked if they support the 1.5% COLA.

Ms. Blank would like to discuss the rate and would like a slightly higher figure to keep up with inflation.

Ms. Lucier said that the Budget has been set and there isn't anything that can be done about it now. In years past, the Board of Selectmen met with the Personnel Board to discuss COLA; however that has not occurred in several years.

Ms. Blank asked when the budget cycle began.

Ms. Lucier said that it begins in January and that the Personnel Board may want to be included in the COLA discussions at that time.

Ms. Blank wanted to know when we should meet with the Selectmen and Ms. Lucier replied that the best time would be the first part of December.

Ms. Mazeika asked if the Personnel Board should express any opinion at Town Meeting on COLA. Ms. Lucier suggested that we be silent on the article at Town Meeting. Mr. Bohnson said that the Board of Selectmen may be expecting a recommendation.

Ms. Baer suggested that we vote that the Personnel Board take no position this year on the COLA or support the COLA. Vote was taken; Ms. Baer, Mr. McCarthy and Mr. Bohnson voted that the Personnel Board agrees with the 1.5% COLA, Ms. Blank voted against, Ms. Mazeika abstained from the vote.

Ms. Baer will suggest that the Personnel Board be involved next year.

There was some discussion on how the Town Administrator sets the budget and the roll of the Finance Committee.

The Town Meeting is May 18, 2015. Ms. Baer will be attending.

The next item on the Agenda was an update on the grievance matter. Ms. Lucier reported that there have been no updates and she will ask Labor Counsel to get in touch with the Chairperson.

The next meeting will be either June 17th or 24th, whichever Don Jacobs is available for. If Mr. Jacobs does not want to meet, there may be no reason to meet until the fall.

In Other Business, Ms. Blank explained that she found Mr. Jacobs's proposal difficult to follow. There was much discussion about the proposal and its inconsistencies. Ms. Baer has sent him some questions to be answered about the cost of his proposal.

Having no other new business, Mr. Bohnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Ms. Blank seconded it at 7:18 p.m.