

Select Board Members Present:

Joseph Michaud-Chairperson
Diane Gilbert
Nathalie L. Dias

Robert W. Carney, Vice-Chairperson
William J. Trimble

The Chairperson called the workshop meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. on January 22, 2009 in room 304.

6:30 p.m. Meeting with Police Chief Pacheco re: 2010 Police Department Budget.

Chief Mark Pacheco and Captain Dennis McGuire briefed the Board on the 2010 Police Department Budget. The Chief stated we currently have 64 Officers in the Dartmouth Police Department, this is less than the National Average of 79 Officers. The Chief mentioned we have not replaced any positions for Fiscal 2009.

The Chief mentioned we have transferred the Traffic Supervisors to the School Department.

Selectperson Trimble mentioned that the Police Department budget is 5.5 million dollars.

The Chief has been investigating the Regional Dispatch system, however stated you still can not eliminate all the dispatchers totally.

New Business:

A review and discussion with the Executive Administrator and Town Counsel of the provisions of the Town Charter Article 4, Sections 4-1 a. and b. concerning the reorganization and consolidation of town agencies and departments.

The Executive Administrator read the provisions of the Town Charter.

Attorney Anthony Savastano briefed the Board on the reorganization and consolidation of town agencies. Attorney Savastano stated depending on the specific proposed changes some documents might need to be amended. Including Towns By-Laws, DTEA Contract, Amendment to the Charter and Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The Chairperson recommended Attorney Savastano follow up with the City Solicitors. The Chairperson stated this consolidation has been done in the City of New Bedford.

The Chairperson requested the Board to come back with some recommendations for the next meeting on the reorganization and consolidation of departments.

A. Vote to request any and all documentation from Murphy, Hesse concerning the (8) eight contracts drafted by Attorney Bartulis.

The Chairperson informed the Board that Murphy, Hesse, has some additional documents pertaining to the (8) contracts drafted by Attorney Bartulis.

After a motion was made by Selectperson Diane Gilbert and seconded by William Trimble, it was voted unanimously to request any and all documentation from Murphy, Hesse, concerning the (8) eight contracts drafted by Attorney Bartulis.

B. Vote to request any and all documentation related to the litigation and subsequent settlement of the Bernier and Hickox vs. Town of Dartmouth.

The Executive Administrator stated to the Board they must take all documents into consideration. Mr. Gagne stated he feels that the 5 members on the Board at the time should give their opinion, as to why they proceed this way.

After a motion was made by Selectperson Diane Gilbert and seconded by Selectperson Nathalie Dias, it was voted unanimously to request any and all documents related to the litigation and subsequent settlement of the Bernier and Hickox vs. Town of Dartmouth.

After a motion was made by Selectperson Diane Gilbert and seconded by Selectperson Nathalie Dias, it was voted unanimously to request all documentation from Attorney Pierce, Davis, Perritano, LLP pertaining to this matter.

C. Review of the status concerning the production of the primary executive session notes related to the February 2006 contracts.

The Chairperson questioned whether or not the Executive Administrator has his notes related to the February 2006 contracts.

The Executive Administrator stated he has his notes from 2005 and 2006 and are available to be picked up by the Chairperson.

Other Business:

Peter Kavanaugh, Business owner, spoke about the money it is going to cost taxpayers to investigate these issues of the contracts and the case pertaining to Bernier, Hickox vs. the Town. Mr. Kavanaugh doesn't understand why we would investigate the contacts. Mr. Kavanaugh stated a contract is a contract secondly what is the real advantage of investigating a case that has been settled

The Chairperson responded these contracts are still an ongoing issue. He stated on the Bernier, Hickox vs. the Town this case was settled over the insurance company direction. Chairperson Michaud mentioned the funds were taken out of the general fund.

Michael Gagne stated to the Board the complaint filed against himself drafted by Attorney Greenspan was sent to members of this Board by an e-mail on December 25, 2008 to be reviewed. Mr. Gagne stated this document was filed in Superior Court on the 5th of January and he has not yet been served with this complaint. Mr. Gagne stated in order to respond to a complaint you need to be served. "I deserve after 22 years to respond to the claimant and have a judge rule on this issue."

The Chairperson answered that the Sheriff's office has the complaint and stated they are sometimes behind.

Selectperson William Trimble discussed changing the way we handle the public at the end of a meeting when they wish to speak.

After a motion was made by Selectperson William Trimble and seconded by Selectperson Nathalie Dias, it was voted unanimously to amend the current policy and allow the individual to speak on a listed agenda item. The Chairperson would have full control.

With no further business to discuss, the Chairperson declared the workshop meeting adjourned.

Attest:



Michael J. Gagne, Executive Administrator

Transcribed by: Linda Torres