

**Selectmen's Executive Session Minutes
Town Hall Stage Conference Area, 2nd Floor, 30 Martin Street**

February 26, 2018

Present: Chairman Lisa J. O'Donnell, Selectman David A. Doane, Selectman Andrew C. Spinney, Town Administrator Brendhan Zubricki, and Selectmen's Assistant Pamela J. Witham.

Also Present: Virginia Antell, Ben Buttrick, Michelle Dyer, Rob Fitzgibbon, Michael Flynn, David Gabor, Richard Ross, and Peter G. Silva.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:10 p.m., citing the need to discuss collective bargaining strategy concerning the agreement between the Town and the Essex Police Benevolent Association; and also, the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property relative to a possible future site for a public safety facility, the Chairman entertained a motion to move to Executive Session. She stated that discussing this matter in Open Session would be detrimental to the Town's bargaining and negotiating strategies. She said that the Board would only be returning to Open Session to adjourn the meeting and invited the Town Administrator, the Finance Committee, the Town Accountant, and Chief Silva to attend the Executive Session. The motion was moved and seconded. Following a unanimous Roll Call Vote by the Board and by the Committee, the Board, their Assistant, the Town Administrator, the Finance Committee, the Town Accountant, and Chief Silva moved to Executive Session. Tina Lane left the meeting.

Purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property relative to a possible future site for a public safety facility: Mr. Zubricki recapped how the option to build a public safety facility next to the Town Hall has not been well received and that the Riccis have approached the Town confidentially to offer their restaurant property as a possible site for a new building. Selectman Spinney and Mr. Zubricki, along with Town Counsel, have conferred with the Riccis and their lawyer. The Riccis have stated that their price to the Town for the property is \$2.4 million and is not negotiable. The Town has signed a letter of intent and has engaged Town Counsel and other professionals to research title to the property, to perform an appraisal of the property and business, and to conduct an environmental analysis. Mr. Zubricki said that the property could be purchased with cash from the \$7 million fund that the Town has from the sale of lots at Conomo Point, if desired by policy makers. Funding for the demolition of the restaurant, design and construction of the new building to house the Fire Department could be funded with a 40-year loan through the US Department of Agriculture. Purchase of the site and funding for the construction of the new facility will have to be approved at Town Meeting. The Finance Committee was in favor of also asking for funding, at the same Town Meeting, to renovate the present Fire Station to accommodate the Police Department.

The Board thanked the Finance Committee and the Town Accountant. And, following a motion to adjourn, a second to the motion, and a unanimous Roll Call Vote by the Committee, the Finance Committee and the Town Accountant left meeting.

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Collective bargaining strategy concerning the collective bargaining agreement between the Town and the Essex Police Benevolent Association: TEXT REDACTED.

There being no further business before the Board requiring an Executive Session, a motion was made and seconded to return to Open Session. Following a unanimous Roll Call Vote, the Board, their Assistant, the Town Administrator, and Chief Silva returned to Open Session at 9:15 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Pamela J. Witham

Attested by: _____
Andrew C. Spinney