

Since your last Town Council meeting, the budget committee unanimously voted to recommend the removal of \$27,000 for the pay equity wage adjustments for the 4 command staff members, which were approved and implemented by the Police Commission on January 4th, 2010, as well as \$46,000 for non-union wage increases for next year's budget. But I want to make it clear that the Commission has not rescinded the wage increases for next year's budget, pending voter approval. So the Police Chief, when implementing the once approved budget may still have the ability to grant the wage increases, by using unspent budget funds from other lines of his bottom line budget. Funds were removed, but the vote to keep the raises was not. And just because the Town Administrator administratively processed the wage increase requests, does not justify the Commission in awarding raises to begin with, without open discussion about them in public.

I have several questions myself, that I want to pose to the Council for their consideration:

Did the Commission consider merely adjusting the wage scales, without actually approving raises at all? They could have just adjusted the wage scale without giving out raises.

Also, if the Commission's argument is that the wage adjustments were approved in order to satisfy the Captain's wage range adjustment, why then was the Chief and other command staff given a raise as well? It is interesting to note that they were only concerned with the positions of the Chief, Captains and Lieutenant. Maybe they need to further examine who it is that's actually leaving the department for allegedly more money – Detectives, Sergeants and Patrol Officers. So much for that argument...

If the Lieutenant's position is considered low in wage range, so as to appeal to a Sergeant wanting to be promoted, why adjust the other ranges of the other positions as well, instead of just the wage range for the Lieutenant's position?

Is there even a Lieutenant's position available at this time, for the Commission to be so concerned at adjusting that position's wage range for a Sergeant to be applying for it?

Which lieutenant is planning to leave the department, so that a Sergeant would need to be urgently applying to fill the position as a replacement of that departing lieutenant? What's the urgency for the Police Commission to approve these wage scale adjustments, without going through the proper process with transparency to the citizens and town boards to first oversee and approve it themselves?

Finally, a Police Commissioner recently commented in the newspaper that the Commission can do whatever they want with their budget money. I want to remind the Commission and this Council, that it is the citizens' money that the Commission is so possessive of, and insistent on giving out without scrutiny or accountability to the process. It is not the Commission's money, the citizens pay it out in their taxes. Thank you for your time.

Regards, Marc Miville