

Note: A portion of these minutes has been redacted.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
APRIL 18, 2006**

Present: Hal White, Vice-Chairman
William Emrich
Steven Halterman
Ted Goodwin
James Malloy, Town Administrator

H. White called the executive session to order under MGL Chapter 39, §23B, Paragraph #3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation; not to reconvene in open session.

Woodstock Properties v. Town of Sturbridge

J. Malloy submitted to the Board a memo from the Building Inspector (copy on file) regarding his opinion on whether the property at 55 Champeaux Road was buildable. He confirmed that the property is not buildable, and noted that Lot #45 is marked into Brimfield so there is no way of knowing if there is public access.

J. Malloy noted that although the Board of Assessors valued this property as buildable, there are other properties on Champeaux Road with the same lack of frontage, and are valued inconsistently. H. White suggested sending a letter to the Board of Assessors to point out the variation and inconsistencies.

Police Collective Bargaining Agreement

J. Malloy submitted to the Board an initial proposal dated February 27, 2006 from the Police Union with his response dated April 4, 2006 (copies on file) as well as additional requests made dated April 4, 2006 (copy on file) from the Union. J. Malloy's responses were in keeping with the discussions that the Board had in 2005 prior to the Police Association deciding to withdraw from MassCop. The Union is seeking to reach a compromise position on April 19, 2006 which the Board could consider in a meeting prior to the Town Meeting so that any changes can be incorporated into the Police Dept. budget, and the numbers could be confirmed by Town Meeting.

J. Malloy said that he conducted a survey of 10 similar towns in order to pay the officers within an average range of the 10 towns, to be competitive. He said that they asked for an increase of 6%-6%-6%; it was the consensus of the Board that 3%-3%-3% was more reasonable.

J. Malloy said that regarding paid details, officers get paid for a minimum of four hours. If they work five hours, they want to be paid for eight hours, and they asked for a detail rate of 1 ½ of the top sergeant's rate. They have also asked

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for an increase in their uniform allowance, to include cleaning costs. On the health insurance issue, they would like to have the 60% retroactive to July 1st. H. White said that he was not in favor of it being retroactive.

J. Malloy read the request from Chief Button into the record (copy on file). Regarding Injured on Duty status, the Chief suggested having an injured officer do administrative work instead of active duty.

H. White indicated that he was in favor of a three year contract, not a one-year contract.

It was the consensus of the Board to agree with the Town Administrator's recommendation.

MOTION: To adjourn, by S. Halterman.

2nd: T. Goodwin

Roll call vote: All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Knowles

BOS Clerk

Date