

**Westborough Board of Selectmen
Executive Session Meeting Minutes
July 29, 2015**

6:30 p.m. – 7:20 p.m.

Present: Chairman Barrette, Vice Chairman Drewry, Selectmen Goldblatt and Johnson.

Also Present: James Malloy, Kristi Williams, and Chief Alan Gordon.

The Board discussed the appointing of an Interim Fire Chief and amending Chief Gordon's contract to compensate him as such.

Selectman Drewry noted his disappointment in the process and communications between the Town Manager and the Selectmen with regard to notifying Nick Perron about the decision to appoint Chief Gordon as Interim Fire Chief. He also noted that he did not know about Chief Gordon's contract amendment and \$1,000 weekly payment until a week ago. He did not like the way the situation was handled as it could be divisive.

Selectman Barrette pointed out that he may not have communicated as well as he should have, but that the situation was discussed with Mr. Malloy and Chief Gordon and is being brought before the Board now. He added that he does not feel that it is his responsibility to continually keep the Board up to date with what is going on and it is unfortunate that they were unaware of the situation, but that it is before them tonight for discussion.

Selectman Drewry noted his concern that the Board was not going find out about the contract amendment until it came back from Town Counsel and they had no input.

Selectman Goldblatt expressed her concerns and disappointment in that the process was not followed in the appropriate way and because of that she is unable to support Chief Gordon in that position. Her decision has nothing to do with the Chief personally. Selectman Goldblatt noted that it was the Chairman's responsibility to let the Board know that he was going to speak with the Town Manager regarding the contract amendment and providing it to Town Counsel for review. She expressed further concerns regarding the communication she had with Selectman Barrette about whether Chief Perron was notified that Chief Gordon was going to be appointed as Interim Fire Chief and that it was her understanding that he knew.

The duties of the Interim Fire Chief were reviewed, which will be administrative only and to support the Captains. Chief Gordon has met with the Captains and they are in agreement with the process that has been put in place.

The Board then discussed with Chief Gordon his contract amendment for the amount he will receive each week, whether he will continue to work details and the impact on his income.

Selectman Johnson's motion to amend the present contract between the Town and Chief Alan Gordon to pay an additional \$1,000 per week during the time he serves as Interim Fire Chief was seconded by

Selectman Barrette. Discussion: A lower amount per week and that the Chief continue to do details was suggested. Chief Gordon pointed out that if he is on a detail he cannot leave should there be a fire emergency that requires his presence.

A Roll Call Vote was taken: Selectman Johnson – yes; Selectman Goldblatt – no; Selectman Barrette – yes; Selectman Drewry – no.

Selectman Drewry made a motion to amend Chief Gordon's current contract to pay an additional \$500 per week as Interim Fire Chief and that he continue to work details. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Selectman Drewry's motion to amend the present contract between the Town and Alan Gordon to pay \$700 per week during the term as Interim Fire Chief and to allow details on an as needed basis was seconded by Selectman Johnson.

A Roll Call Vote was taken: Selectman Johnson – yes; Selectman Goldblatt – no; Selectman Barrette – yes; Selectman Drewry – yes.

Selectman Johnson's motion to adjourn Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. was seconded by Selectman Drewry.

A Roll Call Vote was taken: Selectman Johnson – yes; Selectman Goldblatt – yes; Selectman Barrette – yes; Selectman Drewry - yes.

Submitted by Paula M. Covino