



*City of Taunton
Municipal Council Meeting Minutes*

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*Temporary City Hall, 141 Oak Street, Taunton, MA
Minutes, March 3, 2015 at 7:25 O'clock P.M.*

Regular Meeting

Council President Borges presiding

Prayer was offered by the Council President

*Present at roll call were: Councilor's Borges, Carr, Quinn, McCaul, Pottier,
Croteau, Costa-Hanlon, Marshall and Cleary*

Record of preceding meeting was read by Title and Approved. So Voted.

Communications from the Mayor:

Council President Borges read a letter from State Senator, Marc Pacheco that discussed how the Massachusetts State Senate will be hosting a series of events throughout the state known as "Commonwealth Conversations". This series of events is part of an effort to make your government even more accessible and responsive to citizens. On Wednesday, March 11, 2015, a meeting will be held at the Bristol Community College facility in Taunton at 61 Summer Street from 4:00PM to 4:45PM, and the town hall forum portion will be held in the Rondileau Campus Center Ballroom at Bridgewater State University at 19 Park Avenue, Bridgewater from 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Further information may be found at this website: <https://malegislature.gov/CC/> . **Motion was made to put the letter in the packet and for it to be put on the website. So Voted.**

Appointments:

Appointment of William Bochman, 17 Shore Drive, Taunton to the Taunton Cultural Council for a term of three (3) years expiring the last day of February 2018. **Motion was made to move approval. So Voted.**

Communications from City Officers:

Com. from City Clerk submitting a list of candidates for two (2) Permanent Full-time Firefighters. Councilor Cleary stated that it is a budget issue and based on the two sub-committees, some of the funding for the next 6-8 weeks would be coming from the SAFER grant. The remaining months of April, May and June would come out of the budget. He stated that all of next year would be on the City's budget. He stated that not only will the City have to pick up the \$600,000.00 from the SAFER grant in next year's budget; it would also have to pick up the salaries of the two individuals. He stated that there has been some discussion of the SAFER grant being available next year, but he is talking about the impact of hiring two firefighters in March when the grant runs out in April. Councilor Croteau wanted to point out that based on recommendations from firefighter professionals and associations around the state that the recommended number of fire personnel is 127. He stated that it is very appropriate to make every effort in next

year's budget to fund the level at 120 and it would be a positive move in securing another SAFER grant. Councilor Cleary stated that the Fire Department did a great job with the original SAFER grant. The City went through the process of hiring eight (8) additional firefighters and the Mayor has agreed to continue to fund these positions. He stated that he wonders if it is wise to add an additional two positions to the burden of the City's budget. Councilor Pottier stated that the chief mentioned that the 120 should be covered in this year's budget. As far as covering the 120 the next fiscal year, the Chief mentioned that he is putting it into the budget. Councilor Croteau stated that we have to maintain a staffing level of 120 until April 30, 2015. We will have to hire a couple of people in order to do that. **Councilor Pottier made a motion to refer to the Committee on Fires and Wires and to ask the Mayor for a communication replying back to the Council to confirm if he is looking to keep staffing levels at least at 120 for next year in respective of the City getting another SAFER grant. Councilor Cleary motioned to refer to the Mayor's Office for the budget impact and whether it should go forward. So Voted.**

Communications from Citizens:

Com. from Sheri Cohen, Chairperson, Norton Founder's Day Picnic and Fireworks Committee, Town of Norton, East Main Street, Norton requesting use of the portable stage for Saturday, June 20, 2015 (rain date June 27, 2015) from 3:00pm-9:30pm at the Henri A. Yelle School field located at 64 West Main Street, Norton, MA. Council President Borges stated that Taunton's Family Fourth Night is scheduled for Friday, June 26, 2015 and the rain date is June 27, 2015 so the stage would not be available that day. **Motion was made to approve the request if the stage is available and send it to the DPW and Risk Manager. So Voted.**

Petitions:

Claim submitted by Samuel Dovner, 50 Highland St. #45, Taunton seeking reimbursement for damages to her automobile from hitting a pothole on Highland Street near the intersection of Somerset Ave. **Motion was made to refer to the Law Department and the DPW. So Voted.**

Special Permit submitted by Jay Dorsey, President, Downtown Taunton Business Improvement District, 8 Trescott St., Suite 1, Taunton to allow four (4) units on one lot and to allow residential handicapped accessible unit on the ground floor in a commercial district located at 15 School Street, Taunton and requesting a waiver of the fee. **Motion was made to refer to the City Clerk to schedule a public hearing. So Voted.**

Committee Reports:

Motion was made for Committee reports to be read by Title and Approved. So Voted. Recommendations adopted to reflect the votes as recorded in Committee Reports. So Voted.

Unfinished Business:

Councilor McCaul stated that the interview process for the two new firefighters will be held on Monday evening at 4:30pm in the Council Chambers and it will be televised.

Councilor Pottier stated that he was contacted by a couple of constituents regarding having a dog park in the City. **Motion was made to refer to Marilyn Greene at the Parks, Cemeteries and Public Grounds department to add to their list of things to consider. So Voted.** Councilor Carr stated that the item is on file in the Committee on Public Property.

Councilor Pottier stated that through the MMA, he met with a gentlemen and one of the items that he brought up was a biodegradable bag for leaves. He is concerned about how the paper bags leak when it rains and the leaves end up everywhere. He stated that he asked the vendor to cost out biodegradable regular trash bags which would be a little more expensive but the orange bags used now are not biodegradable and extra space gets used at the dump. He stated that they will be costing them out to see if it would make sense for the fiscal stand point to offer the biodegradable bags as opposed to the regular bags. Also he asked them to also quote on a number of different sized bags. He wanted to let people know that these meetings have been going on. Councilor McCaul thanked Councilor Pottier for looking into this. He stated that biodegradable bags will give the landfill a longer life.

Councilor Carr discussed the huge frost heave on Oak Avenue which is maybe 20 yards from the corner, near the playground area. She suggested that maybe it could be painted yellow like a speedbump because she is concerned that if someone doesn't see it, it could cause damage to their property or themselves. Councilor Pottier discussed how the potholes will be horrendous due to the amount of snow that we have had this season. **Motion was made that the DPW take a look at the frost heave on Oak Avenue to see if there is anything that they can do to take it down or make it noticeable to the public driving down the road. Councilor Pottier motioned to refer to the Mayor's Office to see if he is aware of any efforts being made on the federal level of getting some emergency relief for the streets. Councilor Croteau motioned to add Kilmer Avenue to be looked at. Councilor Costa-Hanlon motioned that Hopewell Street also be looked at. So Voted.**

Meeting adjourned at 7:50P.M.

A true copy:

Attest:



City Clerk

RMB/SJS

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
MARCH 3, 2015

THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR GERALD CROTEAU, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS CARR AND POTTIER. ALSO PRESENT WAS FIRE CHIEF TIMOTHY BRADSHAW

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 5:50 P.M.

1. MEET TO REVIEW THE WEEKLY VOUCHERS & PAYROLLS FOR CITY DEPARTMENTS

MOTION: MOVE APPROVAL OF THE VOUCHERS AND PAYROLLS FOR THE WEEK. SO VOTED.

2. MEET WITH THE FIRE CHIEF TO DISCUSS WHERE WE ARE WITH THE SAFER GRANT AND THE IMPACT ON THE BUDGET WHEN THE GRANT RUNS OUT.

MOTION: TO INVITE THE FIRE CHIEF INTO THE MEETING. SO VOTED.

THE CHAIRMAN STATED THAT THE COUNCIL IS GOING TO BE INTERVIEWING A NUMBER OF FIREFIGHTER CANDIDATES FROM FALL RIVER, BECAUSE FALL RIVER HAD A PROBLEM AND SUPPOSEDLY HAD LAID OFF 30 PEOPLE. HE FURTHER STATED THAT HIS UNDERSTANDING IS THAT IF YOU ACCEPT THE GRANT TO BEGIN WITH, WHICH THE CITY OF TAUNTON DID, THAT YOU HAVE TO MAINTAIN A CERTAIN LEVEL OF STAFFING. HE ASKED THE FIRE CHIEF HOW MANY SAFER FIREFIGHTERS WE HAVE.

THE FIRE CHIEF SAID THERE ARE 8. THE FIRE CHIEF FURTHER NOTED THAT OUR COMPLIANCE NUMBER FOR THE GRANT IS 120. THE DEPARTMENT WAS AT 112 WHEN THEY APPLIED FOR THE GRANT AND WITH THEM FUNDING THE 8, THE DEPARTMENT AGREED TO STAY AT THE 120 FIGURE. THE DEPARTMENT HAS HAD TO FILL RETIREMENTS TO MAINTAIN THE 120 NUMBER. THE CHIEF FURTHER NOTED THAT AS OF TODAY, HIS DEPARTMENT IS AT 118, BUT AS OF MARCH 13 IT WILL BE AT 117 DUE TO ANOTHER RETIREMENT.

COUNCILOR POTTIER ASKED, EVEN AFTER THE GRANT EXPIRES, HOW LONG DO WE HAVE TO KEEP TO THAT 120 FIGURE.

THE CHIEF SAID THAT ONCE THE GRANT EXPIRES THERE IS NO MORE REQUIREMENT TO KEEP THE DEPARTMENT AT 120. THE GRANT EXPIRES ON APRIL 30TH OF THIS YEAR.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY FINANCIAL OBLIGATION ON THE CITY'S PART TO FUND THESE POSITIONS UP TO 120 AFTER THIS CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.

THE CHIEF SAID NO. HOWEVER, THESE 8 FIREFIGHTERS ARE FUNDED THROUGH JUNE 30TH.

COUNCILOR POTTIER ASKED WHAT THE LENGTH OF THE GRANT WAS AND WHAT WERE THE TERMS AS FAR AS WHAT WAS GOING TO BE FUNDED BY THE GRANT.

THE FIRE CHIEF SAID THAT THIS GRANT INCLUDED ALL SALARIES AND BENEFITS INCLUDING HEALTH INSURANCE AND PENSION LIABILITY FOR THE CITY FUNDED OVER 2 YEARS. IT IS AN ESTIMATION AT FIRST, SO WHEN THE CHIEF APPLIED FOR THE GRANT HE FIGURED IN BACHELORS DEGREES AND FIGURED IN THE AMOUNT FOR FAMILY PLAN HEALTH INSURANCE. BECAUSE HE FIGURED HIGH, HE WAS ALLOWED TO APPLY FOR A 4 MONTH AMENDMENT TO THE GRANT TO KEEP THE 8 FIREFIGHTERS ON UNTIL APRIL 30TH, THUS USING THE REST OF THE MONEY FROM THE GRANT.

COUNCILOR POTTIER ASKED IF 8 WAS THE LIMIT, OR DID THE CHIEF JUST CHOSE THE 8 BECAUSE IT WAS FIGURED THAT THE CITY COULD SELF FUND THAT NUMBER.

THE CHIEF SAID HE CHOSE 8 BECAUSE HE FELT IT WAS THE NUMBER HE NEEDED TO KEEP STATIONS OPEN, AND ALSO IT IS A MANAGEABLE NUMBER.

COUNCILOR CARR NOTED THAT THE CHIEF IS REQUIRED TO PROVIDE QUARTERLY REPORTS AND YEAR END REPORTS FOR THIS GRANT.

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THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES - CONTINUED

THE CHIEF SAID HE HAS TO FILE QUARTERLY, SEMI-ANNUALLY AND A FINAL REPORT THAT SHOULD MATCH UP WITH HIS INITIAL REPORT. HE WILL HAVE TO FILE ONE AT THE END OF THE GRANT ALSO. COUNCILOR CARR NOTED THAT THE GRANT RUNS OUT IN APRIL, SO SHE ASKED HOW MUCH WOULD BE COMING OUT OF THE GENERAL BUDGET THIS YEAR TO KEEP THE FIREFIGHTERS ON THROUGH JUNE 30TH. THE CHIEF SAID IT WOULD BE ROUGHLY \$100,000 WHICH WOULD INCLUDE THE PENSION AND HEALTH INSURANCE.

COUNCILOR CARR MADE THE POINT THAT WHEN SHE READ THE SAFER GRANT INFORMATION, SHE KNOWS THAT THE COMMITTEE HAS BEEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT YOU HAVE TO FILL THESE 8 POSITIONS COVERED BY THE GRANT, BUT YOU CAN GET A WAIVER IF THERE WERE ECONOMIC REASONS FOR NOT FILLING THEM,

THE CHIEF SAID THAT YOU CAN GET A WAIVER, BUT YOU WOULD NEED TO SHOW SOME SERIOUS HARDSHIP.

COUNCILOR CARR SAID IT WOULD HAVE TO BE AN ECONOMIC HARDSHIP AND IT WOULD HAVE TO BE ACROSS THE BOARD FOR PUBLIC SAFETY, NOT JUST FIRE.

COUNCILOR CARR ASKED IF THE 8 FIREFIGHTERS THAT WERE HIRED HAD ANY EFFECT ON THE OVERTIME BUDGET, DID IT HELP THE BUDGET AT ALL?

THE CHIEF SAID THAT THEY HELPED TO KEEP STATIONS OPEN WORKING WITHIN THE OVERTIME BUDGET THAT WAS GIVEN, BUT BASICALLY THE OVERTIME BUDGET STAYED THE SAME.

COUNCILOR CARR ASKED IF AT THE END OF THIS FISCAL YEAR THE CITY WERE TO KEEP ALL 8 FIREFIGHTERS, WHAT WOULD THE COST ME.

THE CHIEF SAID IT WOULD BE ROUGHLY \$600,000-\$700,000 PER YEAR INCLUDING THE HEALTH INSURANCE AND PENSION COSTS.

MOTION: THAT THE FIRE CHIEF PROVIDE TO THIS COMMITTEE THE FINAL, YEAR END REPORT FOR THE SAFER GRANT. SO VOTED.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU NOTED THAT THE CITY WAS ABLE TO HAVE 8 ADDITIONAL FIREFIGHTERS FOR A TOTAL OF 30 MONTHS AT A COST TO THE CITY OF ONLY \$100,000. HE THEN ASKED IF FALL RIVER RECEIVED A WAIVER, WHY WERE PEOPLE LAID OFF.

THE CHIEF SAID THAT THEIR SAFER GRANT EXPIRED. THE WAIVER THAT THEY RECEIVED WAS SO THAT THEY DID NOT HAVE TO HIRE TO FILL RETIREMENTS. THEY GOT A WAIVER SO THAT THEY NO LONGER HAD TO STAY AT THE ORIGINAL GRANT NUMBER. THEY LAID OFF WHEN THE GRANT EXPIRED AND FEMA STOPPED PAYING THE SALARIES AND BENEFITS.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU NOTED THAT IF THE MONEY IS PROVIDED NEXT YEAR TO MAINTAIN A LEVEL OF 120 THOSE 8 PEOPLE STAY ON, BUT IF NEXT YEAR THERE ARE 3 RETIREMENTS, THE CITY WOULD NOT HAVE TO REPLACE THE RETIREMENTS.

THE CHIEF SAID THAT IS CORRECT.

COUNCILOR POTTIER ASKED IF THE CHIEF WAS SETTLING HIS BUDGET ON THE 120 NUMBER.

THE CHIEF SAID YES. IT WAS ALSO STATED THAT THE CHIEF HAS APPLIED FOR ANOTHER GRANT FOR 2 YEARS AND HE IS ASKING FOR 7 MORE TO MAKE IT A TOTAL OF 127 FIREFIGHTERS.

THE GRANT IS DUE ON FRIDAY. THE CHIEF ALSO STATED THAT HE RECEIVED AUTHORIZATION FROM THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT THE GRANT. COUNCILOR CROTEAU STATED THAT HE WOULD MAKE A MOTION IN FULL COUNCIL TO AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF TO APPLY FOR THIS GRANT.

THE CHIEF WAS ASKED TO PROVIDE THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS GRANT BEFORE IT IS ACCEPTED.

COUNCILOR POTTIER ASKED THE CHIEF TO PROVIDE ALSO THE NUMBER OF CALLS THAT WERE RESPONDED TO BOTH FIRE RELATED AND EMERGENCY RELATED CALLS, FOR A PERIOD OF TIME. THE CHIEF NOTED THAT THIS INFORMATION WAS REQUIRED FOR THE GRANT SO HE WILL GET IT TO THE CLERK OF COMMITTEES TO BE FORWARDED TO THE COUNCIL.

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THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND SALARIES - CONTINUED

COUNCILOR CARR ASKED FOR A COPY OF THE GRANT APPLICATION ALSO.

COUNCILOR CLEARY STATED THAT REGARDING THE NECESSARY REQUIREMENT TO HIRE 2 ADDITIONAL FIREFIGHTERS AT THIS TIME, HIS UNDERSTANDING IS THAT THE CITY OF TAUNTON THROUGH THE MAYOR HAS ALREADY INDICATED THAT HE PLANS TO FUND THE 8 SAFER POSITIONS FOR NEXT YEAR. SO THE MAYOR IS ALREADY ADDING \$600,000-\$700,000 TO THE BUDGET FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT. BUT, HE STATED, TO SIT HERE AND SAY THAT WE ARE GOING TO HIRE 2 MORE FIREFIGHTERS AND THEN HAVE TO CARRY THEIR SALARIES COMPLETELY NEXT YEAR IS GOING TO BE AN ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL BURDEN ON THE CITY. HE ASKED, IF THIS GRANT ENDS ON APRIL 30TH, DO WE HAVE TO RUSH IN TO HIRING 2 MORE POSITIONS. IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE 6 WEEKS TO GET THEM ON, THEN WE WILL HAVE TO PICK UP THEIR SALARY FOR THE NEXT 2 YEARS – UNLESS WE GET ANOTHER SAFER GRANT. RUSHING IN TO PUT 2 MORE FIREFIGHTERS ON THE PAYROLL, YOU GET 6 WEEKS OF GRANT SALARIES, THEN THE CITY PICKS UP THEIR SALARIES FOR THE NEXT 2 MONTHS AND ALL OF NEXT YEAR AND THE YEAR AFTER. WE NEED TO BE COGNIZANT OF THE IMPACT OF HIRING 2 ADDITIONAL POSITIONS ON NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET. THE CHIEF SAID THAT THE PROBLEM IS THAT YOU ARE SUPPOSED TO MAINTAIN YOUR COMPLIANCE NUMBER THROUGH THE GRANT. HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET A WAIVER WITH 6 WEEKS LEFT IN THE GRANT.

COUNCILOR CLEARY SAID THE CITY SHOULD BE GIVEN A LOT OF CREDIT FOR MAINTAINING THESE 8 SAFER POSITIONS AND IS COMMITTED TO KEEPING THEM. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT WANT TO PUT THE BUDGET IN THE HOLE.

COUNCILOR POTTIER NOTED THAT WE HAVE TO HIRE THE 2 TO KEEP TO THE 8 FIGURE.

COUNCILOR CLEARY SAID HE IS NOT SURE WE DO, BUT HAS BEEN TOLD THAT. THE GRANT ORIGINALLY EXPIRED IN DECEMBER SO WE HAD ALREADY MADE OUR 2 YEAR COMMITMENT, NOW WE HAVE AN EXTENSION BECAUSE THERE WAS SOME MONEY LEFT OVER. BUT THE FACT IS HE HAS SERIOUS RESERVATIONS TO HIRE 2 MORE FIREFIGHTERS FOR THE LAST 6 WEEKS OF THE GRANT.

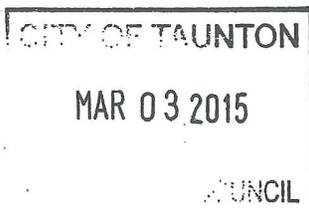
THE CHIEF SAID THAT THE MAYOR STATED THAT HE IS COMMITTED TO ADDING \$600,000-\$700,000 NEXT YEAR SO THAT WILL KEEP THE DEPARTMENT AT 120.

COUNCILOR CLEARY SAID ALSO THAT HIS CONCERN IS THAT IF WE HIRE THESE ADDITIONAL FIREFIGHTERS FROM FALL RIVER, MOST OF THEM HAVE AT LEAST 4 YEARS EXPERIENCE SO THEY ARE GOING TO JUMP AHEAD OF THE KIDS WE HAVE IN THE ACADEMY.

THE CHIEF SAID NO THEY WILL NOT. THEY CARRY THEIR SENIORITY OVER IN REGARDS TO THEIR TIME IN CIVIL SERVICE BUT THEY WILL BE ISSUED A NEW APPOINTMENT DATE IN THE CITY OF TAUNTON SO THEY WILL BE THE JUNIOR GUYS IN TAUNTON. IF THE CITY DID HAVE TO LAY OFF FIREFIGHTERS THESE GUYS WOULD BE THE FIRST TO GO.

IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT IF THE CITY IS AWARDED THE NEW SAFER GRANT AND IT IS ACCEPTED, IT WILL FUND 7 MORE POSITIONS. WHEN THE GRANT IS AWARDED WE MUST FUND THE NUMBER ON THE DEPARTMENT AT THAT TIME PLUS 7 MORE.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:21 P.M.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

COLLEEN M. ELLIS
CLERK OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

REPORTS ACCEPTED, RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

Pam Blackwell
CITY CLERK

CITY OF TAUNTON
MUNICIPAL COUNCIL
MARCH 3, 2015

THE COMMITTEE ON FIRES AND WIRES

PRESENT WERE: COUNCILOR JOHN MCCAUL, CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILORS CROTEAU AND CARR. ALSO PRESENT WERE FIRE CHIEF TIMOTHY BRADSHAW AND CITY CLERK ROSE BLACKWELL

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:24 P.M.

1. MEET WITH THE FIRE CHIEF AND CITY CLERK TO DISCUSS FIREFIGHTER HIRINGS FROM THE LAYOFF LIST

THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE IS LOOKING TO HIRE 3 FIREFIGHTERS AT THIS TIME TO STAY IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE SAFER GRANT. CURRENTLY WE HAVE TO HIRE 2 RIGHT NOW, BUT THE CHIEF HAD REPORTED THAT HE WILL HAVE ANOTHER RETIREMENT ON MARCH 13TH BRINGING THE NEED TO HIRE 3. THE CHIEF STATED THAT HE HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE RETIREMENT BOARD ABOUT THIS RETIREMENT, BUT THE COUNCIL STATED THAT THEY HAVE NOT APPROVED THE RETIREMENT YET. THE RETIREMENT BOARD HAS ASKED THE CHIEF TO CALCULATE THIS PERSON'S PAYOUT BENEFITS AND THIS IS USUALLY THE INFORMATION HE GOES ON.

COUNCILOR CARR NOTED THAT UNTIL HE SUBMITS A LETTER AND IT IS APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL, THIS PERSON COULD STILL COME BACK.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU NOTED THAT THE RETIREMENT BOARD WILL SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE COUNCIL REGARDING THIS RETIREMENT, AND HIS CONCERN IS THAT THE RETIREMENT IS NOT FINAL UNTIL THE COUNCIL VOTES. SO IF THERE IS CONCERN RELATIVE TO THIS ISSUE, THE VOTE FOR THE 3RD CANDIDATE COULD BE BASED ON THAT VOTE BECOMING ACTIVE UPON THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE RETIREMENT LETTER, CONTINGENT UPON THE RETIREMENT LETTER.

THE CHIEF NOTED THAT THE LAYOFF LIST ALWAYS EXISTS, IT IS STATE WIDE. WHENEVER HE IS HIRING, EVERYONE ON THE LAYOFF LIST GETS AN E-MAIL. SOMETIMES THEY MAY NOT LIVE ANYWHERE NEAR THE AREA. THE CITY HAS INTERVIEWED SOMEONE THAT WAS LAID OFF FROM ATTLEBORO IN THE PAST BUT CHOSE NOT TO HIRE. THE RE-HIRE LIST SUPERCEDES THE STANDING LIST AS CIVIL SERVICE RULES DICTATE. IN THIS CASE, WE HAVE NEVER HAD SO MANY PEOPLE ON A RE-HIRE LIST AND LIVE SO CLOSE TO THE CITY OF TAUNTON WHERE THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED IN COMING HERE FOR EMPLOYMENT. THE CHAIRMAN SAID THAT HE KNOWS IT IS A REQUIREMENT FOR THEM TO LIVE IN TAUNTON, AND SINCE THEY ARE COMING FROM FALL RIVER WHAT WOULD HAPPEN.

THE CHIEF SAID THAT THERE IS NO RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT IN TAUNTON. IT WAS TAKEN OUT OF THE CONTRACT ABOUT 15 YEARS AGO.

THE CITY CLERK NOTED THAT BEFORE THEY HAD TO LIVE WITHIN A CERTAIN DISTANCE, BUT THEY DO NOT HAVE TO ANYMORE.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU STATED THAT AT ONE TIME THERE WAS A STATE REGULATION THAT PUBLIC SAFETY PEOPLE HAD TO LIVE WITHIN 30 MINUTES OF RESPONSE TIME.

THE CHIEF SAID THERE MAY BE A CIVIL SERVICE REGULATION THAT STATES THAT, BUT HE WOULD THINK THAT FALL RIVER WOULD QUALIFY UNDER THIS AND THAT MOST OF THE GUYS LIVE IN SEEKONK, SWANSEA AND THE FALL RIVER AREA.

THE CITY CLERK STATED THAT IT WAS TAKEN OUT, BUT SHE WILL CONFIRM.

THE CITY CLERK PROVIDED A LIST TO THE COMMITTEE.

THE FIRST PERSON ON THE LIST THE CITY BY-PASSED ALREADY. SO WHEN YOU START FROM ALL OF THE NO. 2'S THERE ARE 9 IN THIS CATEGORY. THE COMMITTEE CAN CHOOSE ANYONE OF THE 3 CANDIDATES FROM THESE 9 PEOPLE IN THE NO. 2 CATEGORY. THE COMMITTEE CAN CHOOSE ANY ONE IN ANY ORDER - WHOEVER THEY WANTED IN THAT RANKING THEY COULD CHOOSE.

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MARCH 3, 2015

THE COMMITTEE ON FIRES AND WIRES - CONTINUED

THE CITY CLERK CONTINUED AND STATED THAT OUT OF THE 9 PEOPLE, 6 PEOPLE SIGNED AS INTERESTED. THEY ARE KASHMAN, LIMA, MEDEIROS, MEDEIROS, PEREIRA AND PIMENTAL. THESE ARE THE 6 CANDIDATES THAT THE COMMITTEE CAN CHOSE FROM.

THE CITY CLERK REFERENCED THE DOCUMENT AGAIN AND STATED THAT THERE ARE 3 IN CATEGORY NO. 3. ALL 3 OF THESE PEOPLE SIGNED. THESE ARE THE CANDIDATES FROM FALL RIVER IF YOU CHOOSE BEYOND THE NAMES IN THE NO. 2 CATEGORY, YOU WOULD HAVE TO HAVE A REASON FOR BY-PASS.

IT WAS ALSO NOTED THAT OUT OF THE 6 NAMES IN THE SECOND CATEGORY, YOU DO NOT HAVE TO CHOSE THE FIRST 3 NAMES, YOU CAN CHOOSE ANY IN THAT CATEGORY WITHOUT A BYPASS.

THE CHIEF NOTED THAT ALL THE NAMES IN THE NO. 2 CATEGORY WERE ALL APPOINTED THE SAME DAY. FOR WHATEVER REASON, FALL RIVER DOES NOT STAGGER THEIR APPOINTMENTS SO THEY ARE ALL CONSIDERED TO HAVE THE SAME SCORE. IF THEY ARE HIRED IN TAUNTON THEY WILL BE APPOINTED ON A STAGGERED BASIS, ONE FOR EXAMPLE ON APRIL 1, THE NEXT ON APRIL 2, ETC.

IT WAS FURTHER NOTED THAT THE NO. 1 PERSON WAS PREVIOUSLY BY-PASSED, BUT SHE DID NOT SIGN THIS TIME ANYWAY.

THE CHIEF ALSO NOTED THAT CANDIDATE KENYON SIGNED AS INTEREST BUT DID NOT SHOW UP FOR THE CHIEF'S INTERVIEW SO HE WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

THE CHAIRMAN NOTED THAT THE COMMITTEE WILL BE INTERVIEWING 8 APPLICANTS AND OUT OF THOSE 8, 3 WILL BE CHOSEN. THE INTERVIEWS WILL BE HELD ON MONDAY, MARCH 9TH STARTING AT 4:30 P.M. A SECOND INTERVIEW NIGHT WAS SCHEDULED FOR MARCH 12TH AT 4:30 ALSO. THERE WILL BE 4 INTERVIEWS EACH NIGHT.

THE CITY CLERK CONTINUED AND STATED THAT IF IN 2 YEARS WE HAVE A LAYOFF AND IF WE CHOOSE 3 OF THEM, THEY WILL COME IN AND GET SENIORITY. THE ONLY TIME THEY DO NOT GET THEIR SENIORITY IS IF WE HAVE A LAYOFF. THEY WOULD BE LAID OFF FIRST. THIS IS A CIVIL SERVICE RULE.

COUNCILOR CARR ASKED WHAT THE CONTRACT SAYS ABOUT PEOPLE WHO TRANSFER FROM ANOTHER CITY OR TOWN.

THE CHIEF SAID THERE IS NO MENTION OF THIS IN THE CONTRACT.

COUNCILOR CARR REQUESTED SOME CLARIFICATION AS TO WHETHER THIS IS ADDRESSED ANYWHERE IN THE CONTRACT – BRINGING TIME FROM ANOTHER CITY – AND ALSO IF THERE ARE CIVIL SERVICE RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING THIS.

THE CITY CLERK SAID THAT TRANSFERS ARE DIFFERENT FROM RE-EMPLOYMENT. RE-EMPLOYMENT PEOPLE HAVE TO WAIT 3 YEARS TO GET THEIR SENIORITY. THEREFORE, WHEN THE CITY HIRED TRANSFERS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT, THESE POLICE HAVE TO WAIT 3 YEARS TO GET THEIR SENIORITY. IF THERE WAS A LAYOFF AFTER A YEAR, THEY WOULD BE THE FIRST TO GO, IF IT WAS AFTER 4 YEARS, THEY WOULD THEN GO BACK TO THEIR ORIGINAL APPOINTMENT DATE FROM WHERE THEY CAME FROM. COUNCILOR CARR SAID THAT SHE UNDERSTANDS THIS BUT SHE DOES NOT AGREE THAT THE CITY SHOULD GIVE SOMEONE 3 WEEKS VACATION BECAUSE THEY WORKED IN FALL RIVER FOR 10 YEARS. THEY DID NOT WORK FOR THE CITY OF TAUNTON FOR 10 YEARS.

THE CHIEF SAID THAT BEFORE PEOPLE WERE GIVEN VACATION TIME BASED ON THE TIME THEY WERE ON A RESERVE LIST.

COUNCILOR CARR SAID THAT IS WHY THE CITY DOES NOT DO A RESERVE LIST ANYMORE.

THE CHIEF SAID WE DON'T DO A RESERVE LIST ANYMORE BECAUSE IT WAS CHANGED IN THE CONTRACT.

MOTION: THAT THE CITY SOLICITOR PROVIDE THIS COMMITTEE WITH DOCUMENTATION AS TO WHETHER WE DO OR DO NOT HAVE TO PROVIDE VACATION TIME AND OTHER BENEFITS BASED ON THE YEARS SERVED IN ANOTHER TOWN OR CITY FOR THE RE-EMPLOYMENT PEOPLE. SO VOTED.

COUNCILOR CROTEAU ASKED, IF THE CITY OF TAUNTON HIRES FROM THIS LIST OF LAYOFFS FROM FALL

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THE COMMITTEE ON FIRES AND WIRES - CONTINUED

RIVER, WHAT ARE THEIR RE-CALL RIGHTS IN ORDER TO GO BACK TO FALL RIVER. THE CHIEF SAID THAT THESE PEOPLE WILL BE ON FALL RIVER'S LIST FOR 10 YEARS AS PER CIVIL SERVICE, AND THEY WILL BE ON THE STATE RE-EMPLOYMENT LIST FOR 2 YEARS. COUNCILOR COSTA-HANLON ASKED IF THERE WAS ANY WRIGGLE ROOM AS FAR AS WAITING TO HIRE IN ORDER TO HIRE TAUNTON PEOPLE. SHE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW THE BENEFITS THAT THESE PEOPLE WILL BE BRINGING – WHAT ARE THEIR EARNED BENEFITS. SHE ALSO WOULD LIKE TO SEE MORE IN THE INTERVIEW PROCESS AND HOPES THAT THE INTERVIEWS WILL BE TELEVISED. SHE DOES SEE THE BENEFIT THAT THE CITY OF TAUNTON WILL NOT HAVE TO SEND THEM TO THE ACADEMY. SHE ALSO NOTED THAT MAYBE WE CAN HIRE 2 AND HOLD 1 HIRE IN ABEYANCE SO THAT TAUNTON RESIDENTS CAN BE HIRED. COUNCILOR CROTEAU NOTED THAT WE ARE DEALING WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND WE NEED TO HIRE 2 PEOPLE IMMEDIATELY. THE 3RD POSITION NEEDS TO BE MOVED ON QUICKLY ONCE THE LETTER OF RETIREMENT IS ACCEPTED, DUE TO THE SAFER GRANT. WE HAVE NO CHOICE UNTIL AFTER APRIL 30TH. IF WE ACCEPT THE NEXT SAFER GRANT, WE WILL HAVE TO FUND 127 PEOPLE. THE GRANT WILL FUND 7 OF THE TOTAL 127 PEOPLE FOR 2 YEARS, AFTER THAT, THE CITY WOULD AGAIN HAVE TO PICK THEM UP. HE FURTHER NOTED THAT WHETHER THE CANDIDATES TO BE INTERVIEWED GET 3 WEEKS VACATION RIGHT AWAY OR 5 WEEKS VACATION RIGHT AWAY, IT DOES NOT MATTER. YOU CANNOT BYPASS THEM. HE WOULD THINK THAT WHEN THE CHIEF SUBMITS HIS BUDGET WITH ALL OF THE BENEFITS, ETC. ALL OF THE COSTS WOULD BE INCLUDED. HE ASKED THE CHIEF THAT WHEN HE HAS THIS INFORMATION COMPILED THAT HE PROVIDE IT TO THE COMMITTEE – THE COST FOR HIRING THESE PEOPLE FROM THE LAYOFF LIST.

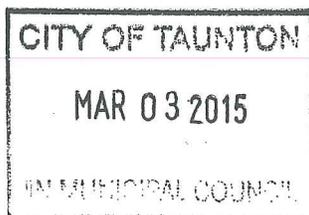
COUNCILOR QUINN NOTED THAT WE NEED TO HIRE IN ORDER TO COMPLY WITH THE GRANT, 2 RIGHT AWAY AND VERY QUICKLY A THIRD TO MEET OUR END OF THE BARGAIN. WE HAVE A LIST WITH QUALIFIED CANDIDATES. SHE WOULD LIKE TO SEE TAUNTON PEOPLE HIRED, BUT DUE TO CIVIL SERVICE RULES WE CANNOT DO THAT. WE NEED TO ABIDE BY THE RULES AND MOVE FORWARD.

COUNCILOR CLEARY SAID THAT IF HE WAS ON THE COMMITTEE HE WOULD WANT TO INTERVIEW ONLY THOSE IN THE NUMBER 2 CATEGORY THAT WAY YOU DO NOT HAVE TO GET INTO THE ISSUE OF BYPASSING. IF YOU CANNOT FIND 2 CANDIDATES OUT OF THAT CATEGORY, THEN GO ONTO THE 3RD CATEGORY. HE ALSO STATED THAT HE IS NOT SURE ABOUT THE 120 NUMBER. IT COULD BE A POTENTIAL PROBLEM WITH THE BUDGET.

THE CHIEF NOTED THAT CIVIL SERVICES SAYS IF WE ARE GOING TO HIRE 3 WE MUST INTERVIEW 7. COUNCILOR CARR SAID THAT SHE THINKS CIVIL SERVICE SAYS THAT WE CAN INTERVIEW 7, WE DO NOT HAVE TO INTERVIEW 7. WE ARE NOT REQUIRED TO, SO SHE WOULD STAY WITHIN THE 2ND CATEGORY. THE CHIEF SAID THERE IS NO REASON WE CANNOT GET 3 CANDIDATES FROM THE TOP 6.

MOTION: TO INTERVIEW THE 6 PEOPLE AS DESIGNATED AS CATEGORY NO. 2 ON MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2015 AT 4:30 P.M. SO VOTED.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:24 P.M.



RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen Ellis".

COLLEEN M. ELLIS
CLERK OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

REPORTS ACCEPTED, RECOMMENDATIONS ADOPTED.

 A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "pm Blackwell".

CITY CLERK