



**Town of Amherst
Town Council Meeting
August 26, 2019
Town Room, Town Hall
4 Boltwood Avenue
Executive Session Minutes**

President Griesemer called the executive session to order at 11:00 p.m. pursuant to the provisions of MGL c. 30A, sec. 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, units SEIU, DPW, DPW Supervisors, Police Patrol, and Police Supervisors, as the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, and (2) to conduct a strategy session in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel, Town Manager Paul Bockelman, and (2) to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, Town Manager Paul Bockelman.

Councilors Present: Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Swartz

Councilors Absent: Steinberg

Councilors participating remotely: none

Staff Present: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Human Resources Director Evelyn Riffenburg-Rivera, Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe

Update on union collective bargaining: Police Patrol, Police Supervisors, DPW, DPW Supervisors, and SEIU

Human Resources Director Evelyn Rivera-Riffenburg spoke about the negotiating process, and about where negotiations stand with the five bargaining units. E. Riffenburg-Rivera spoke about plans to reach \$15/hour for all positions by 2023.

Town Manager Contract Negotiations

Town Manager P. Bockelman recused himself for this portion of the meeting.

President Griesemer spoke about changes to the Town Manager’s contract, and extending the contract to 2023. President Griesemer spoke about the difficulty in comparing salaries for town managers and administrators; Amherst competes with larger towns in eastern Massachusetts and Connecticut.

Councilors discussed a 2% cost of living increase and a 3% performance-based adjustment to the Town Manager’s salary.

VOTED 12-0 by roll call (Councilor Steinberg was absent) adjourn at 12:10 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Athena O’Keeffe, Clerk of the Council