

**SPECIAL meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Brockport was held in the Conference Room, Municipal Building, 49 State Street, Brockport, New York, Friday, March 26, 2004 at 10:00am.**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Josephine C. Matela, Trustees Morton Wexler, James E. Whipple, Norman J. Knapp; and Peter C. DeToy, Police Chief Daniel P. Varrenti, Treasurer Scott D. Rightmyer, Treasurer Ian M. Coyle, Clerk Leslie A. Morelli.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Gary McClendon (D&C), Christine Fein (City Newspaper), Terri Green (Brockport Post), Bill Weber, Carrie Maziarz, Jim & Joan Hamlin, Norm GianCursio, Linda Borryayo, Fred Webster, Rob Trimble.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Mayor Matela called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PURPOSE:**

Mayor Matela stated that the purpose of this special meeting is to consider ratifying the proposed Stetson Club contract. The Stetson Club ratified their contract March 19<sup>th</sup> and the Village Board then received a copy of it and reviewed it at their March 22<sup>nd</sup> workshop under executive session. The Treasurers have analyzed the implications of the proposed contract. Mayor Matela asked each Trustee and the Police Chief for their comments regarding the proposed contract.

Trustee Knapp said he had no comment and will participate in the vote.

Trustee Whipple said from the beginning the Village had hopes and goals. Negotiations are a give and take process and he feels this proposal reflects a give and take. Trustee Whipple said he feels the proposal before the Board is as good as it is going to get for right now.

Trustee Wexler said he is in favor of the proposed contract and feels the Village made progress on two major issues. The first issue is the minimum staffing clause. The Stetson club is willing to allow one full time officer and one part time officer instead of two full time officers on 3 of the 7 days of the week, hence 9 of the 21 shifts of the week. The days are Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays. Trustee Wexler said the Village would have liked it 7 days and 21 shifts, but the concept got in and there was some movement on the part of the Stetson Club, where some thought there would be no movement. Trustee Wexler said he feels this makes it easier to add on to in future negotiations. The second issue is that the Stetson Club is willing to downgrade one level from Blue Choice to Blue Choice Select health insurance. The Village gave up nothing and he applauds the efforts of the Stetson Club on bending on these issues.

Trustee DeToy said the Village spent a lot of money on lawyers to negotiate, but did not get much more than the first proposal made many months ago. Regarding health insurance, most other employers including business and industry ask the employees to contribute toward their medical and dental insurances. In this case, the Village is still paying the full premiums for the Stetson Club. Is it a good agreement? No, not for the money spent getting it. Does he support it? Trustee DeToy said he would.

Mayor Matela said she does not support the proposed contract. It has not gone far enough. The minimum staffing issue was really not addressed. It was addressed with the use of part time officers for 43% of the shifts. Part time officers cost the Village a lot of money and are not easy to come by or retain. Regarding health care, she said the coverage level could have dropped further and there could have been a contribution to premium costs. All in all, Mayor Matela said she is disappointed with the outcome considering the time and money spent on attorneys that were expected to deliver better than this.

Chief Varrenti said he does not believe it is a good contract and said it will be difficult for the Village and he as Police Chief to manage it. He said Trustee Wexler continually concentrated on what he called a flaw in the old contract: minimum staffing. That flaw still exists. Allowing a part timer to cover 3 out of 7 days only requires the hiring, training, outfitting, and uniforming of several part time officers at quite an expense. The rate of return on part-time officers is low and the retention rate is awful. Regarding health insurance, it is only a one step reduction in plans. The last law enforcement contract to settle was Irondequoit, and they went down 2 steps in health care plans. Brockport, as usual, is years behind. In addition, Chief Varrenti said he had a large number of managerial issues that needed to be addressed, and not a single one was dealt with. Further, the proposed contract is for four years. Chief Varrenti said it would be hard for anyone to predict health care costs in four years. The proposal also includes retroactive pay. In summary, Chief Varrenti said he plans to be here for a long time. The Police Department is STILL understaffed.

→ Trustee DeToy moved, Trustee Whipple seconded, Trustee Knapp and Trustee Wexler in favor, Mayor Matela opposed. CARRIED to approve the proposed Stetson Club contract.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

→ Trustee DeToy moved, Trustee Whipple seconded, unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned at 10:10am.

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Leslie Ann Morelli, Village Clerk