

Special Meeting of the Common Council, City of Iron Mountain, County of Dickinson, Michigan held on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Room:

Presiding: Mayor VanLaanen
Present: Council Members Burke, Peterson, Rosen, and Farragh

Public Comment

Kevin Pirlot - 603 Fleshiem St. - urged support for Council's approval of the Fire Department's Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Old Business

IAFF Local #554 Contract

Member Rosen outlined some of the key points of the new agreement, such as an 8% health insurance contribution and proper staffing with a float man and paid part-time. Member Peterson read a letter about supporting the change of direction the new contract provides for but will abstain from voting due to her relationship with a firefighter. Member Farragh is agreeable to the contract if both sides are satisfied with it. Mayor VanLaanen stated he liked that during discussions of the contract; the ability to work toward regionalization was discussed. Member Burke is concerned about possible litigation from the Police Department due to the Fire Department contract stopping the use of the fire trained police officers. Also, he would like a full Council to vote on this contract. Member Rosen feels this is an important and critical contract to approve tonight. Mayor VanLaanen is concerned about paying a bonus to the police officers when the City will no longer utilize their services for fighting fires. He agrees with using paid part-time firefighters and keeping professional firefighters, which is part of the new contract. Member Rosen said a transition period of utilizing fire trained police officers will be utilized and this contract provides for that. Member Burke reiterated his concern with possible litigation from the police department and would like this reviewed by an attorney. Member Farragh believes litigation is not likely with approval of this contract. Member Burke stated that the fire department contract has language that calls for the City to stop using police officers as firefighters. He feels this is what could lead to possible litigation because a duty in the police contract is being removed. Member Rosen said that if we pay the bonuses and continue to after the transition date of December 2009, there won't be litigation. He feels the contract has many positive points and the one negative is paying the police bonuses.

It was moved by Rosen and supported by Farragh to ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Iron Mountain and the IAFF Local #554.

Roll call vote taken:

VanLaanen Yes
Rosen Yes
Burke No
Farragh Yes
Peterson Abstain

Motion failed. (3 Yes, 1 No, 1 Abstain)

Public Comment

Kevin Pirlot – 603 Fleshiem St. – was disappointed that the contract was voted down. He felt that this contract should have been completed months ago.

Ted Corombos – 1115 Wells St. – stated that there would not be any litigation. He said the fire department has been patient waiting for this contract to be ratified.

Bob Moraska – 224 West D St. – stated that he lives in Member Burke’s Ward and he would like him to reconsider his vote on this contract.

Council Member Privilege

Member Rosen thanked the fire department on their gracious collective bargaining negotiations and concessions.

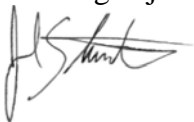
Member Peterson apologized for not being able vote on a subject that is so important to the City.

Member Burke would rather be safe than sorry and have his litigation concern reviewed by an attorney.

Member Farragh can’t believe we are worried about the police contract when we are voting on the fire department contract. He said the fire department contract has nothing to do with the police contract.

Mayor VanLaanen feels that concerns of the contract will be addressed on the contract will come back for another vote.

Meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.



Jordan Stanchina
Clerk-Treasurer