

# LEGISLATIVE SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 1, 2019

**Present:** Robert Magovern - Chair  
George Bitzas – Vice Chair  
Robert Rossi  
Cecilia Calabrese  
Rosemary Sandlin

**Also Present:** Councilors Cavallo, Johnson, Mercadante, Mineo and Suffriti, and Will Clark

**Called to Order:** Meeting was called to order by Chairman Magovern at 6:15pm in the Teachers' Café at AJHS

## AGENDA

### **1. Approval of Minutes dated February 25, 2019.**

Motion to approve the minutes was moved by Councilor Calabrese and seconded by Councilor Bitzas.

The vote was 5 YES, 0 NO approving the minutes.

### **2. TOR-2019-3 - An Ordinance to amend Section 49-7(A)(2) of the Code of the Town of Agawam to increase the salary of the Mayor (Councilor Christopher Johnson) (Two Readings Required)**

It has been over ten years since the Mayor's salary was adjusted. In the past thirty years the Mayor's salary has only been adjusted twice. West Springfield pays their mayor \$40,000 more per year. In 2018, the Mayor's salary wasn't even in the top 100 salaries in town. Even Deputy Department Heads' salaries are higher than the current mayoral salary. Councilor Rossi would like to see across the board 20% raises for all elected officials. Councilor Mercadante noted the problem is the high salaries of the Department Heads along with the recent tax increases and upcoming storm water fees. He feels a possible solution would be to reorganize the departments and rewrite job descriptions and lower the salaries. Councilor Rossi agreed. Councilor Bitzas believed this was the wrong time to give any increases in salaries. Councilor Sandlin was against this noting it was not the right time with the budget coming up. It was also mentioned that union contracts are up for negotiations this year and if everyone received a 2% raise that that too is a huge financial impact on the budget.

Motion to send a positive recommendation to the Full Council made by Council Vice President Calabrese and seconded by Councilor Rossi.

The vote was 1 YES (Councilor Calabrese), 4 NO.

### **3. Any other business that may legally come before the Committee.**

None.

### **4. Adjournment.**

Motion to adjourn was moved and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 6:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Magovern  
Chair of Legislative Committee