

Business Agent Jim Marks' Report

May 2020

Contracts currently in negotiations:

- **Ashby (Dispatchers)**
- **Ashby (Highway)**
- **Auburn (Custodians)**
- **First Student (Bay-Path Drivers)**
- **City of Haverhill (Retirement)**
- **Merrimac (Police)**
- **Merrimac (Sewer)**
- **Newburyport (Administrative Assistants)**
- **Salisbury (Department Heads)**
- **Transgas**

Contracts starting soon:

- **City of Haverhill: Engineering, Library, Clerks, Citizens Center, Water Purification, Water, Water Techs, Inspectional Services and Animal Control/Custodians**
- **First Student Fitchburg/Leominster**

Ashby (Dispatchers): A ratification vote is scheduled for Thursday, April 30th.

Ashby (Highway): Negotiations have started; we exchanged initial proposals and are in the process of scheduling our next meeting.

Auburn (Custodians): Negotiations have started; we exchanged our initial proposals and another meeting is set up for next week.

First Student (Bay Path Drivers): Negotiations are continuing, and I am hopeful we will have something to present to our members soon.

City of Haverhill (Retirement): Looking to resume negotiations in May; hoping to move this process along so I can have something to present to our members soon.

Newburyport (Administrative Assistants): Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the City is requesting a meeting to discuss the possible financial impacts this will have on the City and the possible problems that we could be facing in the future. We are still looking to move forward and have a ratification vote over the next few weeks on a new successor contract.

Merrimac (Police): Negotiations are currently at a stand still as we discuss ways to move forward with negotiations.

Merrimac (Sewer): A ratification vote is on hold due to COVID-19. I look forward to getting this group together real soon.

Salisbury (Department Heads): Discussing options to get a vote scheduled for their new successor contract. I am hoping to have something scheduled over the next few weeks.

Transgas: Negotiations are on hold; we are talking about ways to resume now.

With us being in the middle of the COVID-19 pandemic, it has brought us some challenging times to get contracts negotiated and ratified. As we move forward and adjust to a new way of life, we find technology playing a huge role in getting this done. As always, I would like to thank all my Stewards who continue to do an amazing job during these challenging times.

I would also like to thank all my members who are on the front line and who continue to work during the COVID-19 pandemic putting their own life at risk helping the communities they work for. Please remember that social distancing and washing our hands will help move us in the right direction and help prevent new cases.

It's been another busy month addressing the concerns of our members, especially the daily risks they face at work and the precautions they would like to see their employers take. During the month I have visited some assignments while getting used to social distancing and not shaking hands.

Also, during the month we were contacted by City Councilor Kate Toomey where she asked if the Local could use "Big Blue" to pick up 1000 cases of bananas in Roxbury, which were being donated to the City and then deliver them to North High School and Worcester Voke. Under the direction of Secretary Treasurer/Principal Officer Shannon George we immediately got the ball moving and made this happen. I would like to thank Business Agents Sean

Foley, Eli Gillen and Ken Bergen for taking time out of their day to help unload the bananas at both locations.

As always, I would like to thank Secretary-Treasurer/Principal Officer Shannon George for his continued support, as well as the Business Agents and Executive Board for the job they do each and every day for the Local.

Respectfully submitted,

Business Agent Jim Marks