

Business Agent Ken Bergen's Report

May 2020

Contracts currently in negotiations:

- **Advanced Math & Science Academy**
- **Andover Housing Authority**
- **Groveland (Highway)**
- **Groveland (Water & Sewer)**
- **Hudson RPM**
- **Northbridge (Instructional Classroom Assistants)**
- **Wachusett Regional School District**
- **West Boylston (Cemetery)**
- **West Boylston (DPW)**
- **West Newbury (Police)**

Contract negotiations starting soon:

- **Douglas (Cafeteria)**
- **Douglas (Custodians)**
- **MV Transportation**
- **Wayland (DPW)**

Advanced Math & Science Academy: Proposals have been presented to the school administration with additional meetings scheduled in the upcoming weeks.

Andover Housing Authority: Negotiations are on hold due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We've reached out to the Housing Authority requesting dates for the resumption of talks.

Groveland (Highway) and (Water & Sewer): Contract counterproposals have been exchanged between the parties with further negotiations for both contracts on hold due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Hudson RPM: Negotiations have concluded. We're currently reviewing and editing amended language and hope to be able to put it before the members soon.

Northbridge (Instructional Classroom Assistants): Negotiations are continuing remotely. We're hoping that we'll have something to put before the members in the near future.

Wachusett Regional School District: Contract negotiations continue to be on hold for the time being. Over the past month, numerous google meetings have been held with the District addressing issues involved due to the suspension of school and remote education for continuing the education process.

West Boylston (Cemetery) and (DPW): The Town and Union have agreed to enter into bridge agreements for both contracts to cover the current fiscal year. Negotiations for new contracts will resume as soon as possible.

West Newbury (Police): Negotiations are currently on hold due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Several issues have been discussed and resolved addressing the limiting of potential exposure to our police officer members.

The past several weeks has been a challenge, trying to deal with the normal day-to-day issues such as grievances and negotiations, as well as the issues that have been forced upon all of us by the coronavirus environment and resulting restrictions. Things that we've taken for granted have now become the subject of multiple conference calls and remote on-line meetings. Many of our members are classified as essential employees and are required to work under conditions that may put them at a greater risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus, while other members have lost work or suffered reduced hours as a byproduct of the pandemic, or the restrictions put in place in the attempt to halt its spread or limit exposure.

I want to express my gratitude to all our Stewards for all their hard work, especially in the present environment, and to all our members for their perseverance through these difficult times. I also want to thank our Principal Executive Officer Shannon George, my fellow Business Agents and our Executive Board for all their support and assistance. In addition, I wish all our members and their families the best of health, and hope we're all able to remain safe, now and in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Business Agent Ken Bergen