

## **Business Agent Jim Marks' Report**

**June 2020**

### **Contracts currently in negotiations:**

- **Ashby Highway**
- **Auburn Custodians**
- **First Student Bay-Path Drivers**
- **City of Haverhill - Retirement**
- **Merrimack Police**
- **Newburyport Administrative Assistants**
- **Salisbury Department Heads**
- **Transgas Drivers**

### **Contracts starting soon:**

- **City of Haverhill (Engineering, Library, Clerks, Citizen center, Water Purification, Water, Water Techs, Inspectional Services and Animal Control/Custodians)**
- **First Student Fitchburg/Leominster Drivers**
- **TransGas Mechanics**

**Ashby Dispatchers:** A ratification vote was taken and passed unanimously. Their new contract gives them a clothing allowance, part-time dispatchers will receive time and a half for all hours worked on a holiday, ability to extend bereavement leave, sick leave bank to help fellow employees, a retention bonus of \$5000.00 for full time and \$2500.00 for part time if the Town should move forward with a regional dispatch plan with other towns and a 1.5% wage increase in the second year of the contract as a decent market adjustment of \$3.00 per hour was agreed to before negotiations started.

**Ashby Highway:** Negotiations are ongoing.

**Auburn Custodians:** We have reached a tentative agreement and expect to vote in the next few weeks.

**First Student Bay Path Drivers:** Negotiations continue and I am hopeful we will have something soon for our members.

**City of Haverhill Retirement:** Negotiations have resumed, we are hopeful we can have something for the members soon.

**Newburyport Administrative Assistants:** A contract vote was taken and passed unanimously, our members will receive a 9% increase in wages over the three years of the contract, new on-call language giving them a guarantee of three hours at time and a half, increase in professional development, and an increase in the clothing allowance.

**Merrimac Police:** Negotiations are moving forward through Zoom; we're looking to have another meeting in a few weeks.

**Merrimac Sewer:** A ratification vote has been taken and passed unanimously. Members will receive an increase in on-call pay from \$200.00 to \$250.00, will have the option to accrue compensatory time in lieu of overtime payments, each position will receive a \$2.00 an hour increase up front in the first year of the contract, credit union language and drive language.

**Sturbridge Fire:** I was recently contacted by the Town Manager asking us to sit down and negotiate with the Town to take a reduction in wages for the last year of the contract because of the pandemic. I reminded the Town Manager that these are first responders and the Town should not be asking them for a pay cut, but offer additional hazards pay like I originally requested. It is the Union's stance that we will not bargain a reduction and continue to fight for the additional pay these first responders deserve.

**Salisbury Department Heads:** A ratification vote was taken and unanimously passed. This agreement gives them an 8% increase in wages over three years, health insurance buyout, dental insurance where the Town now pays 50% of the premium, sick bank to help other employees who might need some time, and an increase of \$250.00 in professional development per degree.

**Transgas:** Negotiations will resume on June 10th.

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 our first responders who continue to be on the frontlines protecting their communities and not thinking twice about the job they need to do or the risk they have keeping themselves safe while they help someone in need.

It's been another busy month addressing the concerns of our members around COVID-19, negotiating contracts and taking care of issues. During the month I have visited some assignments while dealing with social distancing and getting used to new policies for visitation during this pandemic.

**During the month I have participated in a few birthday parades with “Big Blue” and participated in Detective John Songy’s support parade.**

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

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Business Agent Jim Marks**