

Closed Session  
Jo Daviess County Board Meeting  
January 13, 2015

The board entered closed session at 7:53 p.m. to discuss:

Collective bargaining section 2(c)2

*“Collective negotiating matters between the public body and its employees or their representatives, or deliberations concerning salary schedules for one or more classes of employees. Topic of discussion:*

Update on current union negotiations

following approval of a motion made by Brandon Behlke and seconded by Terry Stoffregen.

The motion carried by voice vote.

Present were Brandon Behlke, Merri Berlage, William Bingham, Richard Dittmar, Robert Heuerman, Dan Hughes, Randy Jobgen, Steve McIntyre, John O’Boyle, Brad Petersburg, Steven Rutz, Ron Smith, Terry Stoffregen, Martin Werner and RJ Winkelhake. Present: 15. Absent-Gerald Bennett and Don Zillig. Absent: 2. Also present were County Administrator Dan Reimer, County Clerk Jean Dimke and County Sheriff Kevin Turner.

Ron Smith thanked the Union negotiation committee for all their time they dedicated to the union negotiations and contracts.

He stated that the PBLC union was due to go to arbitration in July, but before the arbitration was scheduled, Brian Klauss, the mediation arbitrator, put together a proposal that the County could accept or appeal within in 20 days. He stated if the County would appeal they would be responsible for the cost of not only the County’s attorney, but the union’s attorney also.

He said if the County does not appeal within the 20 days it would be considered accepted.

Ron Smith and Dan Reimer went over some language changes and stated it was very similar to the FOP union contract. The wage increases are 2.5%, 2.5%, 2.7%, 2.9% and 2.9% for the 5-year contract.

The Health Insurance changes to 20% cost to new employees after 12-1-2014. Dan did say that with some language change that holiday pay would cost the county more.

Ron stated that neither side was completely happy with all changes.

Bill Bingham asked Dan Reimer of he could provide him with documentation of the initial proposals compared to what they ended up with.

Ron Smith said that the County had to be careful with changes out of the ordinary or the County could end up with more unions forming.

Dan Reimer said the increases were similar to the 2.7% of what the County Salary Plan averages per year.

Merri Berlage advised in future negotiations, the County attorney and the Union attorney do not have the opportunity to talk with each other in the hallway or at other times during negotiations.

The board returned to open session at 8:23 p.m.