

GMEA General Meeting

Friday, January 28th, 2011

Town Hall Meeting Room 4:00PM

In Attendance: President: Harold Munrow

1st Vice President: Phyllis Swift

2nd Vice President: Angela Giordano

Secretary: Vicki Gabriele

Treasurer: Terry Colletti

Receptionist: Sue Ambrogio

Representative Officer: Absent (Resigned)

Harold opened the meeting at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Financial report was presented by Terry Colletti. Terry discussed the uncollected dues by a few members. She is working with payroll to come up with an exact number of members and how much is owed. Letters will be sent to these members and we will try to collect these dues. A motion was made and approved by members.

Present were 60 GMEA members (verified by sign in sheet) and the 6 member E Board.

Old Business:

The Ingles grievance that was previously thought to be resolved has been reopened by the town. It continues to cost the association money because we must continue to represent her. To date this has cost about \$20,000.

The Davila lawsuit is still pending. There is \$57,000 in legal fees associated with this lawsuit. The malpractice insurance company that represents Mr. Fleischer is fighting and does not want to settle.

We continue to pay the attorney \$8000 per month.

The contract will enter into mediation with the town. The first meeting with the mediator is scheduled for February 28th. There will be 3 meetings. The town pays for half of the cost of the mediation to the state and GMEA is responsible for the remainder.

The situation with the food service workers regarding non-payment for 15 minute breaks is still being reviewed by the state labor board. The food service management was to supply the labor board with

information by January 14th. All other town employees get a paid 15 minute break and a ½ hour lunch unpaid. That should be across the board for all members.

New Business:

Harold has spoken with the attorney in regards to his fees and he continues to try to work with him in reducing the expense.

We have a new grievance on the back burner that is about to become a lawsuit.

Discussion in regards to the Bylaws not containing anything pertaining to the amount of money that GMEA should be responsible to pay for any member who has filed a grievance. Should there be a limit on the funds spent on each individual case? Maybe we need to come up with a formula to be used to calculate how much should be allotted for each individual case? Would like to hear opinions of the members about the possibility of a committee being formed to resolve this.

If anyone has a suggestion for a new attorney to represent GMEA we would like to know.

We need to have a special election for a new Representative Officer next month. 3 members have volunteered to run for this office:

Linda Swenson

Linda Marini

Karen Martin

There was a suggestion that the dues be raised and Harold vetoed.

Members voiced concern over the town policy on snow days. If we do not report to work we do not get paid unless we use a vacation day. The fact that school is dismissed early due to weather, why should we have to remain or make up the hours in the same pay period. If the library is closed do those members have to follow the same policy? It is believed that they do not. If the governor declares a state of emergency and all non essential employees are told to stay home or have a delayed opening, why shouldn't we do the same?

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.