



**Board of Selectmen**  
**Town Hall Hearing Room**  
**December 8, 2009**  
**Executive Session Minutes**

The Executive Session of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at approx. 6:33pm by Chair James Hoben in the Yarmouth Police Station Training Room. Also in attendance were Selectmen Suzanne McAuliffe, Erik Tolley, Bud Groskopf, Jerry Sullivan, Town Administrator Robert Lawton, Fire Chief Michael Walker and Deputy Fire Chief Robert Kelleher.

**Item #1 – SAFER Grant**

*Chief Walker and Deputy Kelleher outlined the collective bargaining impact of accepting the SAFER grant which would add eight (8) Firefighters to the staff. The advantages would be to adequately staff the fire service and provide better coverage for all three stations. It is critical that the minimum staffing requirements not be changed as if the minimum standards go up over time will continue to increase. The eight (8) additional firefighters would stabilize and lower overtime costs under current staffing requirements. The Board and the Town Administrator then talked about options for placing money aside as under the new SAFER grant the Federal Government will pay 100% of the costs for salary and fringe benefits but in the third year the Town must pick up 100% of the costs for at least one year. Funds could be transferred into the ambulance funds which could then be drawn upon in the third year of the grant. There was significant additional discussion concerning the SAFER grant and its impact. Ms. McAuliffe asked for specific information concerning comparisons with other Towns as adding eight (8) firefighters was a significant increase in staffing and liability for the community. Chief Walker stated that he would have that information as soon as practical. At the end of this section of the meeting it was agreed that the Board of Selectmen would receive the additional information and then take a position as to whether or not the grant should be applied for and then if granted accepted.*

**Item #2 – Contract Negotiations**

*Chief Walker stated that he is making proposals to increase management authority over vacation time and to solidify the current language in the current contract regarding operations in order to limit overtime liability. There is a meeting on December 14<sup>th</sup> as the second or third meeting with the Union to start meaningful discussion regarding a contract settlement. Mr. Lawton reminded the Board that there would be some salary increase in FY12 which has not been determined at this time.*

*As there was no further business to come before the Executive Session it was moved by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms. McAuliffe to adjourn the Executive Session and return to open session. It was unanimously voted Mr. Hoben – yes, Mr. Tolley – yes, Ms. McAuliffe – yes, Mr. Groskopf – yes, Mr. Sullivan – yes. Executive session adjourned 6:50pm.*