

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Municipality Accountability Review Board (MARB)

FROM: Robert Dakers, OPM

SUBJECT: Tentative Labor Agreement Between the City of West Haven. West Haven Fire Department, West Shore Fire Department and West Haven 911 Dispatchers, International Association of Firefighters & UPPFA of CT, Local 5127

DATE: April 3, 2018

Attached is Tentative Labor Agreement between the above parties. According to Section 367(b)(6) of Special 17-2, June Special Session (the "Act"), the MARB shall have the same opportunity and authority to approve or reject, on not more than two occasions, collective bargaining agreements as is provided to the legislative body of such municipality. According to the Board's procedures, the Board has 44 days from the February 27, 2018 date of this tentative agreement, or until April 12, 2018 to approve or reject the tentative agreement. If no action is taken by that date, the tentative agreement would be deemed approved by the Board. The West Haven City Council is scheduled to vote on this agreement on April 9, 2018.

The term of the attached agreement is July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2020. The agreement covers approximately 16 employees working in ERS Dispatcher titles providing dispatch services for the West Shore Fire District, Center Fire District, Allingtown Fire (now part of the City) and the West Haven Police Department. The dispatchers are paid by the two Fire Districts, Allingtown, and the City of West Haven, divided equally between the parties. The current City of West Haven's fiscal year 2017-18 budget funds 16 full-time dispatchers and one part-time dispatcher, with regular wages totaling approximately \$966,115 in the FY2018 budget. It appears that there is an additional \$359,000 in overtime and other compensation. The FY2018 budget contains \$791,955 in revenues from the fire district's share of the ERS dispatch service.

Summary of Tentative Agreement

In the tentative agreement, the provisions of the prior contract are provided, with negotiated changes **highlighted**. Below are brief descriptions of the **changes** compared to current language.

Article 5, Section 3: Deduction of Union Dues (page 3). A new provision in the tentative agreement is the Union agreeing to indemnify and hold the City harmless related to actions taken by the City for the purpose of complying with this section.

Article 9, Sick Leave

- **Section 1 (page 7).** The maximum sick leave accumulation under the current and tentative agreement is a maximum of 120 days for those hired on or before July 1, 1996, and 110 days for those hire thereafter days. Annual accumulation is 18 days per year for those hired on or before March 1, 2015 and 15 days per year for those hired thereafter.
- **Section 3 (page 7).** Sick leave payout to their beneficiaries of accumulated sick time upon death of any employee is 120 days for those hire on or before July 1, 1996 and 80 days for those hired

thereafter. **In the tentative agreement, employees hired after February 5, 2018 shall not receive sick leave payout upon their death.**

- The contract provides for a long-term disability plan that would commence after 90 days at 66 2/3% of wages, with a social security offset, up to age 65 if the employee continues to meet the plan's eligibility criteria.

Article 10, Vacations (page 9). Employees who have completed one year of service receive 12 vacation days per year, growing in five year increments to 25 days after 20 years of service and 26 days upon completion of 25 years

Article 11, Section 3 Overtime (pages 10). Currently, time and one-half of hourly pay shall be paid for all time worked in excess of 8 hours worked in any day. Time taken as sick, vacation or holiday during that week counts as time worked. **Under the tentative agreement, hours work in excess of 40 hours in a week shall be paid time and on-half. Sick leave would no longer count as hours worked in a workweek for employee's volunteering for overtime; however employees ordered into work will receive time and one-half pay.**

Article 13, Personal Days (page 11). The current and tentative agreement provides for four personal days per year, which shall not be accumulative except for one unused personal day.

Article 14, Holidays (page 12). Each employee shall be paid for 12 holidays, paid annually in two installments. Employees who work on a holiday shall receive two (2) times their days' paid.

Article 15. Insurance (pages 12-15). The agreement outlines the current health insurance plan offered to active and eligible retired employees, with employee's premium share being 12 percent of the cost of the plan. **Effective July 1, 2018, a high deductible health plan (HDHP) will be implemented (\$2,000 for single; \$4,000 for family). The City will contribute to the employee's Health Savings Account 50 percent of the applicable deductible. Employees would be able to "buy-up" to the current Blue Cross Century Preferred Point of Service Plan ("PPO") by paying the difference between what the City is contributing towards the HDHP (premium and deductible) and the cost of the PPO. The employee premium share for this plan would increase to 14 percent effective July 1, 2017, from the current 12 percent.** According to the City, once the deductible is met, everything is paid at 100%. Unlike the Water Pollution Control union contract, this agreement does not require payment of prescription co-pays of \$5, \$25 and \$40 even after the deductible is met. Employees who waive coverage receive a payment of \$1,000 employee only, \$2,000 employee plus one and \$4,000 for family coverage.

Article 17, Longevity (pages 15-16). Employees who have reached their fifth year of employment receive a longevity payment of \$610 increasing in five year increments up to \$810 after 25 years of employment. Employees hired after February 5, 2018 shall not be entitled to longevity payments.

Article 20, Work Week. Full time dispatchers work 40 hours per week.

Article 23, Retirement and Pension (pages 18-20). Under the current and the tentative agreement, post-retirement benefits primarily involve the City of West Haven's 401 K Pension, payment for accumulated vacation and sick time, and pre and post 65 retiree health insurance. Employees can retire after 20 years with no age requirement.

- **Sections 1 and 2, Vacation and Sick Time.** Full-time employees who retire are entitled to a lump sum payment for vacation time earned. Employees with 20 years of continuous service hired before July 1, 1996 are entitled to a lump sum payment of 100 percent of accumulated sick time up to a maximum of 100 days, with those hired thereafter shall be entitled to a maximum of 90 days payment. **Full time employees hired on or after February 5, 2018 shall not be entitled to payment of accumulated sick leave at retirement.**
- **Section 3, Pre-65 Retiree Health Insurance.** Employees electing to retire after 20 years of continuous service, will receive the insurance and medical benefits afforded to them and their enrolled dependents at the time of retirement (**which is now the HDHP**) until their 65th birthday. Until age 60, employees hired on or before July 1, 2011 shall pay the same contribution towards health, prescription and dental benefits as is required of active employees, as it may change from time to time, except that between age 60 and 65 the contribution shall revert to the same premium percentage that was in effect at the time of retirement. Employees hired after July 1, 2011 and retiring after twenty years of continuous service you will pay, as an individual, 25 percent of the fully insured equivalent for coverage through age 65 and 50 percent for dependent coverage for dependents. **Employees hired after February 1, 2018 shall not be entitled to retiree medical insurance.**
- **Section 4, Age 65 and Beyond.** Retired employees, upon reaching age 65, receive reimbursement for the standard individual Medicare Part “B” and an \$8,000 life insurance policy. Retired employees with at least 20 years of service are eligible to receive Plan F or its equivalent (supplemental policy), for themselves and eligible spouses. Retirees shall pay the same percentage toward the supplement policy which is required of active employees as it may change from time to time and 50 percent of the incremental premium cost for his/her spouse. **Employees hired after February 5, 2018 will not be eligible for reimbursement for Medicare Plan B, F or life insurance policy upon retirement.**
- **Section 5, 401K Pension Plan.** The employer’s contribution is five percent (5%) of salary, with the employee contribution being a minimum two percent (2%) up to a maximum of 25%; however, the employer shall match the employee’s contribution up to eight percent (8%). These employees also participate in Social Security.

Article 24, Wages (page 21) The agreement provides for general wage increases of 0%, 2% and 2% on July 1, 2017, July 1, 2108 and July 1, 2019, respectively. Below is the current salary schedule for dispatchers.

June 30, 2017	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3
Weekly	\$827.37	\$963.78	\$1,125.46
Hourly	\$20.68	\$24.09	\$28.14
Annual	\$43,023.24	\$50,116.56	\$58,523.92

Note: Lead dispatcher shall be paid a shift premium of \$15.00 when working in that role.

We are awaiting additional cost information from the City and will send along when completed.

Attachment

Cc: Mayor Nancy Rossi, City of West Haven
Katherine Vecellio, President, Local 5127