

MINUTES

Board/Staff Present:

John White, Cris Sanders-Porter, Jef Morgan, Frank Coppa, Walter Evans, Toni Bocci, Peggy Wilcox, Pete Ford

John White called the meeting to order 12:11 PM

I. Question?

What have people heard about the Finance Committee meetings?

Peggy Response:

- They are basically, gavel in and then immediately gavel out. Labor contracts are up for possible cuts to budget, anybody's guess on how it will play out.
- If they call their own special session, they do not have to specifically address the Gov. request (to balance budget).

How many votes do they need? Is there already a deal being discussed?

- At this point it is unknown, House is meeting in Anchorage.
- Minority is holding their ground, emotions are running high, and there may be some "in-fighting" right now.
- Their constitutional job right now is to balance the budget.
 - Clarification- they are the stewards of the budget.
- They need 2 Dems to get to 2/3 vote.
 - Capital projects are being discussed as well.

John- What do we, as an organization, need to be doing? Peggy?
Pete?

- Pete, we need membership to contact their legislators.
 - Toni, how is contact being done?
 - Emails
- Pete, contracts should not be political, contract is a negotiation.
 - If we make this political, email contact to membership can be cut.

Toni question- How are we working with other unions? Can we advertise?

- Pete's response is that it takes time to set up and make contact but they are talking about possible newspaper ad.
 - Must focus that these are contracts and have been negotiated that must be recognized.
 - Right now there is a rejection of monetary terms that include the 2 ½ percent, rate for insurance and steps. The legislature thinks they are just rejecting the 2 ½ but the steps are included in the monetary funding.

John mentions that we need to keep the emails and letters going. We should think about an ad from SU union and encourage co-workers to stay active.

John- Public Employee conference is later this month. He is checking to make sure that arrangements for attendees are made. The North Star borough sending people to Colorado, they made need help with accommodations.

- Items for conference from Alaska to donate. When conference is closer, get with Walter and Jeff to gather items together.
- John is working with AFT for Alaska reps at the conference can meet.
- Walter may add a person who may attend conference.
- Jeff asks if someone from SE will be going- Yes, we do.

John- Frank and I will work to get budget put together.

Pete- Keep in mind and consider a LOA about working conditions for firefighters. They have a draft put together, and would like us to sign that letter.

- Walter- If it was done today, he would sign.
- John- This ID's a position that is going from full-time to seasonal, do we want this happening?
 - He can see Fish and Game services, like in Homer, are closing and being taken over by the University system.

Meeting ends 12:56 PM