

AFSCME LOCAL 517 EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING MINUTES JANUARY 25, 2016

In attendance: Nate Arthur, Jody Johnson, Annie Walton, Robbin Rosén, Ryan Olson, Steve Despiegelaere, and John Ewaldt.

Meeting called to order at 12:05 p.m.

1. Election of Officers: A notice will need to be mailed out to the membership 15 days before the election, which will be held on March 9th in the Stillwater office. Angela Plumbo will be running the elections, will take nominations at the meeting, and will have a vote if there is more than one person running. Christy will contact Melinda Pearson at the council to get the notice mailed out. The four officer positions, three executive board members at large and one trustee, are open for election.
2. LMC discussion: Nate stated that the LMC meetings have been unproductive and management has been unresponsive and disorganized and have had no follow through on their end. John stated that was the situation in Ramsey County and for us to continue to participate and their response can be used as a bargaining chip with the members. Nate asked if someone else could take over as the chair for him since he is not comfortable with leading a meeting. He is in contact with Adam Snegosky to see if he would be interested.
3. Negotiations: When should we start preparing for this? John: We need to attend the budget hearing (June-August) then attend the levy presentation and the truth and taxation meeting (Sept/Oct). In Sept/Oct John will file the notice “to desire to bargain wages”.
4. John will be holding a steward training at the council office January 28th at 9:30 a.m. if there is any interest. Jody stated there is a woman in Cottage Grove that is interested and she will connect with her.
5. Lunch for the Cottage Grove and Woodbury meetings: There was discussion on whether we should be spending money on this when our budget is so tight. In the Stillwater office there were two meetings a few months ago that no one ate any of the food and then it all went to waste. It was decided to have a potluck for the two meetings coming up.
6. John brought the new member cards to the meeting. He informed everyone that they now have maintenance of membership date on them so members can’t sign up to vote and then call the council right away and become a fee payer. Ryan took the new cards to his group of 10; 6 people signed up right away, 3 of them are unsure, 1 refused. John stated there are talking points we should use with the members: the card is for the council 5 so no one needs to resign if they get a new job with AFSCME representation. This is our mail line of defense against the Friedrichs case. This isn’t meant to trick anyone. This is very common language and most labor unions have this in their membership card.

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.