

**CITY OF STARBUCK
CITY COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 27, 2023
12:00 P.M. – STARBUCK COMMUNITY CENTER**

Mayor: Gary Swenson

Councilors: Steve Gorder

Chris Taffe

Mary Baukol

Dane Christensen

Clerk/Treasurer: Joan Kerkvliet

Police Chief: Mitch Johnsrud

Minutes - Approved 12/11/2023

1. Call the Meeting to Order:

Please stand for the **Pledge of Allegiance** - Meeting was called to order by Mayor Swenson
At 12:00 pm.

- Roll Call - Swenson, Gorder, Taffe, and Baukol Present. Absent - Christensen

2. Consent Agenda:

- a. Approve Agenda

Motion by ; second by Taffe to approve the consent agenda as presented. **Motion carried (3-0).**

3. New Business:

- a. Discussion of New Union Contract Proposal

The council discussed the proposals for wage increases from both the LELS and AFSCME unions. They were also presented with spreadsheets showing the impact of the proposals to the 2024 budget. Clerk/Treasurer Kerkvliet let the council know the budget numbers assumed the \$60,214 public safety grant from the state would all be used to fund the police department. Chief Johnsrud told the council it would not be possible to attract and retain police officers unless the City of Starbuck offered competitive pay. The LELS union proposal offered two pay options for the council to consider, Option 1 called for an approximate 29% increase to the current steps. Chief Johnsrud proposed steps be added to his AFSCME contract. The rest of the AFSCME employees proposed they get their currently proposed 3% 2024 increase along with a 7.3% cost of living adjustment. Mayor Swenson asked for a closed meeting to discuss the proposals.

Meeting closed at 12:25pm

Meeting Reopened at 12:38pm

Motion by Gorder; second by Taffe to approve the Option 1 LELS wage increase for Police Officers, as well as the AFSCME proposal for the rest of the staff, effective January 1st 2024 with negotiations to start in August/September for the next contract Period. **Motion carried (3-0).**

Closed Session:

- a. Union Contract Discussion

5. Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 12:39pm