

**INTEREST ARBITRATION
OPINION AND AWARD**

In The Matter of Arbitration

Between

CITY OF OTTAWA

And

POLICEMEN'S BENEVOLENT
AND PROTECTIVE ASSOCIA-
TION

(Interest Arbitration)

Hearing Held

December 6, 2006

Ottawa City Hall
301 S Madison
Ottawa, IL 61350

Appearances

For the City:

Keith R. Leigh, Esq.
Pool, Leigh & Kopko, P.C.
628 Columbus Street, Suite 208
Ottawa, IL 61350

Arbitrator

Steven Briggs

For the Union:

Teresa Heisel-Smoot, Esq.
PB & PA Labor Committee
435 W. Washington Street
Springfield, IL 62702

BACKGROUND

In negotiations for a successor to their April 1, 2004 – April 30, 2006 collective bargaining agreement the parties reached a tentative agreement on all issues in dispute. The Union membership ratified that tentative agreement, the City Council rejected it. The Union brought the issues to interest arbitration. The parties mutually appointed Steven Briggs to conduct an interest arbitration hearing and issue a final and binding decision. The hearing was held on December 6, 2006, during which time both parties were afforded full opportunity to present issues and arguments in support of their respective positions. They waived their right to file post hearing briefs, and agreed that the Arbitrator should issue a bench Award. It is set forth below.

AWARD

Having heard the parties' arguments on the issues in dispute, the Arbitrator has decided that all of the tentative agreements previously rejected by the City Council shall be included in their May 1, 2006 – April 30, 2008 collective bargaining agreement, along with the provisions that remained unchanged.

Signed by me this 6th day of December at Ottawa, Illinois.



Steven Briggs