

Worcester Bargaining Update #5

The Guild and the Company meet Wednesday (Dec. 12) for contract bargaining for the first time since September, when the T&G human resources director underwent heart surgery.

The company arrived 40 minutes late, and although there had been four prior meetings, it was like starting over, as Greg Thornton, HR Director for the Boston Globe gave an opening statement that painted a bleak picture for the New York Times' New England properties. The Guild countered by noting that most of the economic hardship is being suffered by the Globe, which is four times the size of the T&G , resulting in a skewing of the financial picture.

The Guild gave the company a modified proposal that responded to several minor issues the parties had been close to resolving in September: streamlining the grievance procedure and clarifying the definition of seniority.

The company then took an extended caucus and reported the new company negotiators have to familiarize themselves with the issues. (This was their excuse for waiting three months between bargaining sessions.)

It looks like the next bargaining session will be in January, although the company has not yet responded to a list of available bargaining dates provided by the Guild.