

**Board of Selectmen
September 12, 2018
Town Hall**

Present:

Mary Blanchard, Chairman
Priscilla Gimás, Vice-Chair
Mary Dowling, Clerk
Michael Suprenant
Chase Kaitbenski
Jeneé Lacy, Admin Assistant

Also Present:

Bill Haggerty
Bob Levite
Jayesh Patel
Erik Gaspar
James Waddick
John Degnan

Chairman Blanchard called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

The Selectmen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill Haggerty Interview for Town Administrator Search Committee Citizen Member

Bill Haggerty came forward and introduced himself.

M. Blanchard talked a bit about Bill via his resume.

The Selectmen each asked B. Haggerty a series of questions regarding his expertise, skills, opinions and expectations.

Bob Levite Interview for Town Administrator Search Committee Citizen Member

Bob Levite came forward and introduced himself.

The Selectmen each asked B. Levite a series of questions regarding his expertise, skills, opinions and expectations.

Jayesh Patel Interview for Town Administrator Search Committee Citizen Member

Jayesh Patel came forward and introduced himself.

The Selectmen each asked J. Patel a series of questions regarding his expertise, skills, opinions and expectations.

Erik Gaspar Interview for Town Administrator Search Committee Citizen Member

Erik Gaspar came forward and introduced himself.

The Selectmen each asked E. Gaspar a series of questions regarding his expertise, skills, opinions and expectations.

James Waddick Interview for Town Administrator Search Committee Citizen Member

James Waddick came forward and introduced himself.

The Selectmen each asked J. Waddick a series of questions regarding his expertise, skills, opinions and expectations.

John Degnan Interview for Town Administrator Search Committee Citizen Member

John Degnan came forward and introduced himself.

The Selectmen each asked J. Degnan a series of questions regarding his expertise, skills, opinions and expectations.

M. Blanchard stated the names of all the candidates that interviewed

Vote to Approve Citizen Members of the Town Administrator Search Committee

Motion: To appoint Bill Haggerty to the Town Administrator Search Committee. By: M. Blanchard

2nd: M. Dowling

Discussion: P. Gimás stated that since B. Haggerty was on the part of the last TA Search Committee that they should open it up to new citizens and give them an opportunity. M. Blanchard responded that the Search Committee required a lot of work to get off the ground. M. Dowling agreed with P. Gimás that there should be some new people on the committee but it would be good to have someone who has knowledge and a background in the process. M. Dowling stated that there would still be two new people on the committee if the Board voted to appoint B. Haggerty. M. Blanchard stated that they shouldn't have all new people on the committee because they need someone with experience. M. Suprenant agreed that they should have both new and experienced members of committee.

Vote: 3 – 2 (P. Gimás & C. Kaitbenski opposed)

Motion: To appoint James Waddick to the Town Administrator Search Committee. By: M. Dowling

2nd: P. Gimás

Discussion: M. Dowling likes J. Waddick for a seat on the committee because he is a Finance Committee member and he has a background in human resources. M. Blanchard and P. Gimás agreed.

Vote: All in favor (5 – 0)

Motion: To appoint Jayesh Patel to the Town Administrator Search Committee. By: P. Gimás
2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Discussion: M. Blanchard noted that J. Patel seemed negative about the town and about the former Town Administrator. M. Suprenant stated that he is torn between J. Patel and E. Gaspar. J. Patel represents business owners of Sturbridge and E. Gaspar represents young families of the town. M. Dowling stated that she is torn as well, she commended J. Patel on his energy and business perspective. But she stated that she is leaning towards E. Gaspar more because he seemed to feel very passionately about Sturbridge and would be the only one on the Committee uniquely able to answer questions about the current school system having children now enrolled. C. Kaitbenski stated that his top three picks were J. Waddick, J. Patel, and E. Gaspar. He likes that E. Gaspar loves the town so much and he likes how much passion J. Patel has. M. Blanchard stated that J. Patel was

enthusiastic but he seemed too negative. P. Gimas stated that J. Patel would work well with others and has done a lot for the town as a business owner.

Vote: Motion Doesn't Pass (2 – 3) (M. Blanchard, M. Dowling, M. Suprenant opposed)

Motion: To appoint Erik Gaspar to the Town Administrator Search Committee. By: M. Dowling

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in favor (5 – 0)

Vote to Appoint Department Manager Member of the Town Administrator Search Committee

Motion: To appoint Chief Thomas Ford as the Department Manager Member of the Town Administrator Search Committee. By: C. Kaitbenski

2nd: P. Gimas

Discussion: C. Kaitbenski stated that Chief Ford has been active since 1985, is well respected and runs a well-organized department. M. Dowling agreed but stated that the other two candidates were also well qualified.

Vote: All in Favor (5 – 0)

Vote to Appoint Board of Selectman Member of the Town Administrator Search Committee

Motion: To appoint Mary Dowling as the Board of Selectman Member of the Town Administrator Search Committee. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: M. Blanchard

Discussion: C. Kaitbenski mentioned that P. Gimas was the only Selectmen member that submitted an application for the Search Committee. M. Blanchard responded that the Board has never submitted applications for a search committee it has always just been voted on. P. Gimas stated that she applied because it is a process that should be followed and that she has had experience hiring, firing, and evaluating in the past. M. Dowling thanked those who supported her in the motion and suggested that they can make a change to the process for the future, if the Board so desires. In past practices they have never had to apply and would just vote.

Vote: 3 – 2 (P. Gimas & C. Kaitbenski opposed)

Vote to Refer the Recreational Marijuana Bylaw to the Planning Board for a Hearing

Motion: To refer the Recreational Marijuana Bylaw to the Planning Board for a hearing. By: M. Suprenant

2nd: C. Kaitbenski

Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Vote to Execute Contract with Interim Town Administrator

Motion: To execute contract with Interim Town Administrator. By: M. Dowling

2nd: M. Suprenant

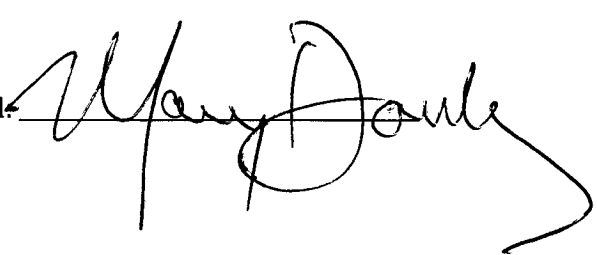
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

The Board of Selectman discussed Kevin Filchak's offer to be of assistance to the Search Committee even if he wasn't chosen to be a member. It was decided that it was up to the Search Committee to leverage help if they needed it.

Motion: To adjourn at 8:30 p.m. By: C. Kaitbenski
2nd: P. Gimás
Vote: All in Favor (5-0)

Adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Jeneé Lacy

Clerk of the Board: 

Date approved: 