

October 29, 2020

Police Chief Search Committee Meeting

October 29, 2020

Town Hall

3:15 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Present:

Mr. Klaus Hachfeld
Ms. Kristen Leo
Mr. Reed Hillman
Mr. Shane Woodson

Staff:

Jeff Bridges, Town Administrator

Interviewees:

3:15 p.m. – Chief Michael Blanchard
5:15 p.m. – Chief Earl Dessert

Mr. Jeff Bridges called the meeting to order at 3:15pm.

Mr. Bridges read the following statement: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting law, G.L. c. 30A Section 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Sturbridge Police Chief Search Committee will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation can be found on the Town's website at <https://www.sturbridge.gov/town-administrator/pages/how-access-virtual-meeting>. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to listen and or watch the meeting either online via the Town's on demand video broadcast, on cable television on channel 191, or dial into the meeting at 774-304-1455, enter 1428# for the meeting number and 12345 for the access code. (This phone number is only active for the public during public meetings). No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town's website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Mr. Bridges began by asking the committee if they approved postponing the review of the prior meeting minutes at another time. The committee approved.

October 29, 2020

The committee went around and introduced themselves to Chief Michael Blanchard, the first interviewee. Mr. Bridges told the committee they have two hours for each candidate with 19 formal questions to ask Chief Blanchard and asked him to begin with his introductory statement.

The first candidate was provided an opportunity to make an opening statement. This was followed by the question and answer portion of the interview. The interview concluded with the candidate making a closing statement. Mr. Bridges then walked Chief Blanchard out.

When he returned, Mr. Bridges told the committee that they will take this time to interview the candidates, spend some time to review the responses and gather up their scores and impressions of each candidate, and then schedule another meeting to discuss the interviews. Mr. Bridges said that when the evening concludes, he is not looking for a response or preference from the committee yet and asked if that was acceptable. The committee agreed. Mr. Hillman asked if the rubric should be emailed directly to Mr. Bridges but Mr. Bridges said not yet and that they will talk about the next steps at the end of the meeting.

Mr. Bridges then brought the Interim Police Chief, Earl Dessert in at 5:15 p.m. for the next interview. The committee members went around and introduced themselves to Chief Dessert, the second interviewee.

The second candidate was provided an opportunity to make an opening statement. This was followed by the question and answer portion of the interview. The interview concluded with the candidate making a closing statement. After the closing statement, Mr. Bridges walked Chief Dessert out.

When he returned, Mr. Bridges thanked the committee and asked them to go through their notes, give him feedback on their thoughts and impressions of the candidates, and that they will continue from there. Mr. Hachfeld asked if Mr. Bridges wanted the numerical breakdown from the scoring on the questions and Mr. Bridges confirmed saying that he will put it together and get the results out for their next meeting. Ms. Leo asked if they should complete their forms and send them back to them to Mr. Bridges. Mr. Bridges said she could just sent the scores.

Adjourn

Motion: To adjourn at 6:19 p.m. By: Mr. Klaus Hachfeld

2nd: Mr. Shane Woodson

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Klaus Hachfeld: YES, Ms. Kristen Leo: YES, Mr. Reed Hillman: YES, Mr. Shane Woodson: YES, Mr. Jeff Bridges: YES

Vote: 5-0

Adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Alex McConnon

Date approved: _____



Signed: _____

11/18/2020