



Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Date: August 6, 2020
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: Audioconference Broadcasted Live from McCourt Social Hall
Memorial Town Hall, Spencer, MA
Present: Administrator Gregory, Chairman Hicks and Vice-Chair Woodbury
Dialing in: Clerk Howard, Members Berthiaume and Pepe
Health Agent Lisa Daoust, Fire Chief Parsons, Town Clerk Torti and
Moderator Shemeth

Chairman Hicks called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Introduction/Questions for Recommended Candidate for Interim Town Clerk Position

Dr. Hicks introduced Lisa Johnson, the finalist for the Interim Town Clerk Position. He conducted interviews with Selectmen Woodbury, Clerk Torti, Moderator Shemeth with four candidates and Ms. Johnson was the only one with experience and her references were very good.

Mr. Pepe noted that he did not see a resume.

Ms. Johnson introduced herself and noted that she was Town Clerk in Boylston for three years and Assistant prior to that and said she is happy to accept the position.

Ms. Berthiaume said she was concerned about the process since the Board did not receive any information in advance and in the future wants resumes to be sent in advance. Dr. Hicks acknowledged that resumes should have been sent, however due to a loss of power and time constraints to hire an Interim while Clerk Torti was available to train the candidate contributed to the fast pace of the process. The Board now has the opportunity to ask Ms. Johnson questions related to the position and her experience.

Ms. Johnson noted that she understands how the Clerk's office operates is not afraid to ask colleagues for help.

Mr. Woodbury said he is confident the best candidate was selected to serve for the next ten months.

Mr. Shemeth said he does not have any concerns and is confident Ms. Johnson understands the details of Town Meeting.

Mr. Pepe noted that if Clerk Torti is comfortable with Ms. Johnson as the Interim, then he is comfortable as well.

Dr. Hicks reported that the salary is prorated at \$60,000 per year and will accept health insurance.

Review and Act to Appoint an Interim Town Clerk to Serve until the May 11, 2021 Annual Town Election

A motion to appoint Lisa Johnson as Interim Town Clerk to Serve until the May 11, 2021 Annual Town Election (Woodbury/Howard) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume–yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes.

Review and Act to Hire Consultant Dawn Michanowicz to Mentor the Interim Town Clerk

Chairman Hicks reported that Clerk Torti recommended retired Town Clerk Dawn Michanowicz be hired to support Ms. Johnson with the 2020 Election, at a rate of \$300 per day, not to exceed \$2,500

A motion to hire Consultant Dawn Michanowicz to Mentor the Interim Town Clerk (Pepe/Woodbury) for \$300 per day, not to exceed \$2,500 passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume–yes, Hicks-yes, Howard-yes, Pepe-yes, Woodbury-yes.

Review and Act on Future Board of Selectmen Meetings in the McCourt Social Hall

Dr. Hicks noted that citizens are requesting to see the Board meet in-person, rather than remotely; McCourt Social Hall can accommodate up to seven people, with a six-foot distance between. Mr. Woodbury agrees and said there is plenty of room to accomplish this and should be open for other Boards and Committees as well. Mr. Gregory is willing to be at the door in advance to handle the logistics. Citizens input will continue by phone, not in person. Board Members and the Executive Assistant have the option to continue calling in from home.

Clerk Torti asked how the room will be sanitized between meetings and has face shields to share with the Board. Mr. Gregory will check into sanitizing the room.

Discussion on Fall Special Town Meeting Location

Dr. Hicks noted that it will be difficult to hold the Fall Special Town Meeting outside since it will likely be scheduled in November. Mr. Gregory said the timing of the Governor's budget will likely mean a mid-November Town Meeting. Mr. Shemeth agreed and said it is not feasible to hold meeting outside due to the expense.

Board Member and Staff Comments

Ms. Torti thanked Dr. Hicks, Mr. Woodbury, and Mr. Shemeth for their efforts in quickly hiring the Interim Town Clerk.

Mr. Shemeth offered his deepest gratitude to Ms. Torti for her outstanding work on behalf of the Town.

Dr. Hicks pointed out the spike of Coronavirus in Town due to a party held without social distancing or masks, resulted in seven additional cases. He urged parents to require their families wear masks and social distance during gatherings.

Mr. Woodbury thanked the Police, Highway Crew, and Fire Department for their efforts and cleanup of trees and debris after the tropical storm.

Chief Parsons recommends holding off on in-person meetings until a sanitizing plan is in place. Federal funds are available for the expense through the Cares Act.

Ms. Daoust noted there are 60 total COVID cases and 5 active at this time.

A motion to adjourn (Woodbury/ Pepe) passed with a roll call vote: Berthiaume—yes, Hicks—yes, Howard—yes, Pepe—yes, Woodbury—yes.

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Savoie
Executive Assistant