



SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES OF MAY 8, 2023

Members: Judy Bickford, Don McDowell, Chris Palermo, Travis Sabatasso, Laura Streets

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Eric Dodge, Town Administrator; Judi Alberi, Administrator's Assistant; Jason Luneau, Police Chief; Paula Beattie, Human Resources Director; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer;

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Sheila Tarbox, Tony Cote, Jerry Throne, Evelyn Throne, Gary Briggs, Martin Green, Laura Green, Kathy Chaffee*, Tom Cloutier*

**participating via Zoom*

CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Judy Bickford called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:30PM at the Tegu Building.

AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

1. Outline process for hiring a new Town Administrator

Paula Beattie, Human Resources Director, discussed the hiring process she had begun to implement for the Town Administrator(TA) position. Paula recommended a hiring panel consisting of Sara Haskins, Judi Alberi, Kevin Barrows, Tina Sweet, Jason Luneau, the 5 member Selectboard and herself. Paula had placed the advertisement in several places. Being budget sensitive, Paula looked to the board to spend the \$600 on the ICMA ad which the Selectboard agreed to. Paula has the deadline for resumes active until May 19th but will extend the deadline should it be necessary based on resumes received.

There was some interest from the community members and some board members to have community involvement during the selection/interview process. If interviews are in executive session, are community members held to the same standard as the employees when it comes to confidentiality? What would the process look like with community involvement? The Selectboard discussed the idea and ultimately decided that 2 community members would be involved to some degree to be determined as the selection process moves forward.

The community stressed the importance of taking time to hire a TA. The TA is the most significant position in the town and it is crucial to hire the right candidate. The Selectboard heard the citizens concerns.

Motion made by Don McDowell to include Sara Haskins, Judi Alberi, Tina Sweet, Kevin Barrows, Jason Luneau, Paula Beattie, 2 community members and the Selectboard members to represent the hiring committee. Motion seconded by Travis Sabatasso . Motion carried (5/0).

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Possible Executive Session - Legal at 6:30pm

Motion made by Don McDowell to go into Executive Session because I find that premature general public knowledge of pending or probable civil litigation or prosecution, to which the public body is or may be party will clearly place the town at a substantial disadvantage by disclosing its negotiation strategy. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Don McDowell to go into Executive Session to discuss the pending or probable litigation or prosecution under the provisions of Title 1 section 313 (a) (1) of the Vermont Statutes, to include Town Administrator, Eric Dodge, Peter Jones, & Denise Twombly. Motion seconded by Chris Palermo. Motion carried. (5/0)

Motion made by Don McDowell to come out of Executive Session. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (5/0)

ADJOURN

Motion made by Don McDowell to adjourn. Motion seconded by Travis Sabatasso. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm

Submitted and filed this May 9, 2023

Judi Alberi, Scribe

Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Selectboard meeting.