

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK

2021 DEC 22 PM 1:33

TOWN OF WILMINGTON, MA

Appointing Committee  
for the Finance Committee  
Minutes

February 10, 2021

Finance Committee Chairman John F. Doherty III called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present via video conferencing on ZOOM were Board of Selectman Chairman Jonathan Eaton and Town Moderator Robert G. Peterson, Jr.

Mr. Doherty read a statement regarding Open Meeting Law and public access to the meeting via technological means. He then took a verbal roll call of the attendees. Mr. Doherty then began by explaining the function of the Finance Committee and then invited the candidates to introduce themselves.

Mr. Doherty announced that the first order of business was to review minutes of the Finance Committee Appointing Committee June 30, 2020 meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Doherty and by unanimous verbal roll call it was:

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the Finance Committee Appointing Committee meeting held June 30, 2020 and all actions are hereby ratified and confirmed.

Next Mr. Doherty invited the applicants in the audience to introduce themselves and offer comments about their background.

David Tamang introduced himself as a Wilmington resident since 2016 with a young daughter and a desire to be involved in Town activities to make Wilmington as great a place as possible for her. He described his background in education and science, with a Masters in EDU and a Molecular Biology Degree. He stated he is originally from Great Falls, Montana and had an opportunity to choose where to teach and was drawn to the greater-Boston area. For six years he worked in Bio-marketing development and is now in clinical operations at Syntax Corp.

Scott Neville introduced himself as a Wilmington native who was recently able to move back to town. Professionally he has been a fund accountant and for sixteen years has been working in private equity at a small broker/dealer accounting department where he does corporate accounting. He received his Master's in Finance in 2016.

Andrew Lavigne has lived in Wilmington since 2002 and has two teen children. He stated he grew up in Vermont and went to college there. He worked in revenue accounting at EMC Corp and since 2000 has worked at Fidelity. He described himself as "boring individual" noting that he has worked for the same company for 20 years, has driven the same car for nine years and has been with his wife for twenty years. Most of his career has been building budgets and analysis. Now that his children are older he feels it is his civic duty to give back to the community that has been so good to him.

Mr. Doherty asked if any of the candidates had read the FY22 Budget. Mr. Tamang and Mr. Neville both stated they watched the recordings of the Finance Committee meetings. Mr. Lavigne stated that he has read the budgets over the years but has not read this year's yet.

Mr. Doherty explained the commitment that is necessary for the committee, meeting twice a week, and detailed the budget season process. He asked the candidates if they feel they can make this commitment and all three agreed they could.

Mr. Doherty asked if there were any questions from the Committee. Mr. Eaton stated that municipalities are generally behind in information technology and cost is an issue. He asked the candidates how familiar they are with assessing long term costs for investing in technology. Mr. Tamang noted that over the last year his company has gone completely remote and he feels very comfortable on the user end but is not privy to the costs or rollout process. Mr. Neville said he was not directly involved with the implementation but that last year his company changed a 25-year-old system and he was part of the process to get quotes, cost analysis and interviews of vendors. Mr. Lavigne stated he was very comfortable with technology today and adjusted to going virtual. He said he understands the gap between corporate and municipal and spoke to how he would develop baselines to guide the process.

Mr. Eaton then noted that over the next 10 to 15 years Wilmington will likely require significant investment in major projects including schools, senior center, town hall, library, fire substation and more. The Finance Committee is tasked with these capital projects and asked how each candidate would handle unpopular decisions. Mr. Neville answered that he has no problem making informed decisions. Mr. Tamang noted that asset allocation for budgets is what he does all the time and that he is familiar with competing interests. Mr. Lavigne said that how you deliver the information is key, that focus needs to be on not just what but how and that he is more than familiar with prioritizing.

Mr. Peterson had a two-fold question for the group. He asked what everyone's priority would be and how they would prioritize the upcoming projects. Mr. Tamang answered that he is always looking at value and social impact and would prioritize based on the meaningful impact to residents. Mr. Neville stated that he feels Town Manager Hull has been doing a good job and he likes the explanations that Mr. Hull gives for the budget, and that he sees that the Town may need to make changes and he feels he is fiscally responsible. He mentioned that OPEB liability is a concern of his. Mr. Lavigne prioritized schools first, followed by public safety, noting the need for the fire substation, followed by the senior center. He noted that there is room nation-wide for more priority around caring for elders. He stated that his goal would be to continue with the good fiscal management that Wilmington is known for.

There was a brief discussion about municipal funding including debt exclusion and overrides, commercial property and business development, and free cash spending. Again the candidates were asked about their comfort level in deciding how to spend residents' tax money. Mr. Neville said he would focus on community benefit and increase in property value. Mr. Tamang said he would frame it in a larger context and focus on supporting a prosperous community. Mr. Lavigne said that he would base it in the facts, what the Town has at its disposal and noted

that transparency is the key to understanding and acceptance. Mr. Doherty agreed that transparency has always been important to himself.

Mr. Doherty stated that all of the candidates are well qualified. Mr. Eaton and Mr. Peterson agreed. Mr. Eaton, noting that there was only one current position to fill, encouraged the candidates to stay civic-minded. He stated that the Town always needs good, smart people in government, serving on all boards and committees.

A motion to appoint Mr. Lavigne was made by Mr. Doherty, seconded by Mr. Eaton, it was unanimously and by roll call:

VOTED: To appoint Mr. Andrew Lavigne to the Finance Committee for a term to expire in 2022

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

OTHER BUSINESS:

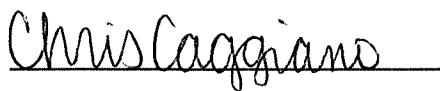
There was no other business.

There being no further business to come before the committee, a motion was made by Mr. Peterson, seconded by Mr. Eaton and by the affirmative vote of all, it was:

VOTED: That the Finance Committee Appointing Committee adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Chris Caggiano", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Caggiano  
Recording Secretary