

SELECT BOARD MEETING

March 18, 2024

Chair Gary B. DePalma called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in Room 9 of the Town Hall. Present were Select Board members Gregory B. Bendel, Kevin A. Caira, Lilia Maselli and Frank J. West. Also present was Temporary Town Manager Louis Cimaglia. John Petrin, Community Paradigm, was participating remotely.

Chair DePalma asked those present to rise and he led the pledge of allegiance.

Temporary Town Manager Cimaglia read from a prepared statement which reviewed the process culminating in this evening's vote. He reiterated that the process was public, thorough and transparent.

Chair DePalma read from a prepared statement where he advised that he agreed to add public comments to the agenda. He stated that each speaker will be allowed two minutes and he will allow a total of thirty minutes for public comments.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joseph Maselli, North Street, expressed his appreciation to the Select Board and Town Manager Screening Committee noting that they are volunteers. He stated that he watched the interviews and did research and opined that Clancy Main would be the best candidate based upon his experience and knowledge of the Town. He asked that the Select Board consider future generations when making their decision.

Paul Chalifour, Hopkins Street, asked what the procedure would be tonight. Chair DePalma stated that after public comments the Select Board will discuss among themselves and will call for a vote.

Audrey Reed, Deming Way, stated that she moved to Wilmington from Bedford and that she loves living in Wilmington. She stated that she hopes the Board selects the right candidate.

Kevin MacDonald, Andover Street, asked whether members of the Select Board visited the communities the candidates currently work in. Mr. MacDonald was reminded public comments were limited to two minutes. He advised that he has.

Mr. MacDonald stated that candidates stated they had an open door policy and he was able to speak with three of the four candidates following their interview. Mr. MacDonald offered additional comments regarding the Town's budget and insurance. He opined that the Board ought to conduct additional interviews. At time Mr. MacDonald was advised his time was up.

CONSIDERATION OF CANDIDATES FOR TOWN MANAGER POSITION; VOTE ON APPOINTMENT OF TOWN MANAGER CONTINGENT UPON NEGOTIATION OF AN ACCEPTABLE EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT

A motion was made by Select Board Member Caira to appoint Eric Slagle to the position of Town Manager contingent upon negotiation of an acceptable employment contract. The motion was seconded by Select Board Member West for discussion. He stated that he believed Mr. Slagle was the most well-rounded candidate.

Select Board Member Bendel stated that this is a transitional period for the Town. He complimented the Town staff, noting this has not been an easy time. He expressed his appreciation to Lou Cimaglia for stepping into the role of Temporary Town Manager. Select Board Member Bendel also thanked the individuals who applied, the screening committee and Community Paradigm. He stated that each finalist brought something to the table. He

commented that he was glad the vote was being taken during his eighth year on the Select Board and not his first.

Members of the Select Board were in agreement with Select Board Member Bendel's comments.

At this time, Chair DePalma called for the vote and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Select Board appoint Eric Slagle to the position of Town Manager contingent upon negotiation of an acceptable employment contract.

CONSIDERATION AND VOTE ON CREATION OF A TOWN MANAGER CONTRACT NEGOTIATION SUBCOMMITTEE

Select Board Member West stated that he wished to nominate Chair DePalma as one of the two members to serve on the subcommittee. Select Board Member Bendel nominated Select Board Members Kevin Caira and Lil Maselli. He stated that the two should be allowed to finish the process citing the successful negotiation with Temporary Town Manager Cimaglia. Select Board Members Caira and Maselli expressed their willingness to serve on the subcommittee. They stated that they worked well together. Chair DePalma nominated Select Board Member West to serve on the subcommittee. He opined that they needed a new vision and opined that all members work well together.

Select Board Member West stated that he was involved in Michael Caira's contract in 2005.

Chair DePalma stated that he will take up Select Board Member West's motion and asked for a second. Chair DePalma seconded the motion for Chair DePalma to serve on the subcommittee and by the affirmative vote of two, with Select Board Members Bendel, Caira and Maselli, the motion failed.

A motion was made by Select Board Member Bendel, seconded by Select Board Member Maselli and by the affirmative vote of three with Select Board Member West and Chair DePalma opposed, it was

VOTED: That Select Board Members Kevin Caira and Lilia Maselli serve on the Town Manager Contract Negotiation Subcommittee.

A motion was made by Select Board Member Maselli, seconded by Select Board Member Bendel and by the affirmative roll call vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Select Board adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of conducting strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2), not to return to open session.

Meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,