

HAMILTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING

May 29, 2018

Members Present: Chair Shawn Farrell, Scott Maddern, Jeffrey Hubbard, William Olson, and Allison Jenkins (participating via conference call).

Members Absent: None

Acting Town Manager: Chief Russell Stevens

Chair Shawn Farrell called the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. He noted Allison Jenkins was participating remotely due to geographical constraints.

**AGENDA**

**Discussion and Appointment of the Town Manager Screening Committee**

Mr. Farrell noted a handful of people turned in applications past the deadline, but they are entertaining all of them. There are 14 applicants.

**Public Comment**

Darcy Dale, 58 Woodbury St., a member of the Finance Advisory Committee (FinCom) asked if they would entertain Public Comment prior to starting the agenda. She said she was looking at the Town website and there is nothing there that talks about Hamilton's unique form of government—a direct democracy that allows the voting citizens to be a part of the process and play an active role, such as in enacting legislation that bypasses the referendum process. She said she thinks it would be prudent to modify the website to show Hamilton is a direct democracy vs. a representative democracy since many are not aware of that. Town meetings are unique to New England; it's an ancient, honorable form of self-government, she said. She will forward her statement to the BOS. She said FinCom Chair David Wanger wanted to make sure the person who replaces Michael Lombardo as Town Manager has a solid background in direct democracy.

Bill Shields, 721 Bay Rd., said he couldn't find recent minutes on the website and updated minutes would be beneficial. He said since the citizen's petitions were passed, they've seen nothing happen. He asked what the Selectmen are doing, what they are going to do, and what they're waiting for. He said nobody knows what happened at the Executive Session

except the BOS was getting a second legal opinion. He wanted to know what that was about and if the BOS was seeking a way to undermine the votes of Town Meeting.

Dave Thompson 103 Essex St., said he wanted to ask the BOS a question about why it had restricted the latitude of Mr. Wanger in negotiating with the Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. He said he could foresee the response from the seminary would be that it didn't have enough money [for payment in lieu of taxes] and without the latitude to discuss other things, such as land swaps or whatever can be worked out, he can't see the talks going anywhere. He asked why they are not opening the discussion up to a group of competent people to make the best deal they could. He said he believed Mr. Wanger was the right person for the job. He had questions about some other potential sites for the cell tower. Mr. Farrell said that topic will be on the next meeting's agenda.

### **Discussion and Appointment of the Town Manager Screening Committee (Continued)**

Mr. Farrell read the names of the 14 applicants: Mary Beth Lawton, Bill Shields, Kate Walker, David Neill, Rosemary Kennedy, Heather Ford, Mimi Fanning, Jane Dooley, Norman Cramer, Bob Curry, Gene Lee, Jack Lawrence, Patrick Reffett, and Denise Bisailon. He said they had discussed with Bernie Lynch, principal of Community Paradigm Associates, LLC, that 5-7 was a good number for the Screening Committee. They decided on having 7 members, which should include former Selectmen, business owners, School Committee members, anyone from boards and committees who had business with the Town Manager, etc. The BOS took the list of people and placed them in categories.

Jeff Hubbard nominated Chief Russell Stevens for the committee. He said Chief Stevens knows the job better than anyone else. Chief Stevens politely declined saying they should give someone else a bite of the apple.

Scott Maddern said they should let the Screening Committee know what is expected of them, how many meetings (thinks it will be a total of five or six) and that the work needs to be done by August or September. He recommended holding meetings during the day.

Chief Stevens said he is going to send a written profile of the position to Mr. Olson and Mr. Hubbard tomorrow for their input. Then a completed draft will go before the BOS at its June 4 meeting. At that point, the Chief would be authorized to start advertising the Town Manager position. The task of the Screening Committee is to present three qualified candidates. Mr. Lynch will meet with the Committee to explain their charge.

The BOS discussed they should also vote for an alternate in case someone on the Screening Committee needs to back out.

For the former selectmen slots, they liked all three candidates: Mr. Neill, Ms. Ford, and Mr. Lawrence. They chose Mr. Neill and Ms. Ford and moved Mr. Lawrence to the category of community member. Mr. Hubbard noted Mr. Lawrence helped write the Special Act and said that knowledge was valuable. They acknowledged Bill Shields also wrote the Special Act and decided to star them both. Among the School Committee members, they chose Gene

Lee, a grants manager. The other candidate was Michelle Baily, who lives in Wenham. They decided they preferred Hamilton residents. Ms. Lawton, Mr. Reffett, and Ms. Dooley are all Town employees. Mr. Olson said he wasn't sure they should have more than one Town employee. Mr. Farrell suggested they take one. Mr. Maddern suggested taking one and putting the others into the community member category. Ms. Lawton and Mr. Reffett are both directors; Mr. Reffett deals with the Town Manager more than Ms. Lawton. They liked Ms. Dooley [assessor and former BOS Minutes Secretary], whom they described as a first-line employee. Chief Stevens said Ms. Dooley doesn't have much interaction with the Town Manager, so if they picked her, they should also pick a department head. Mr. Farrell said Mr. Reffett was his first choice of the three because he was the most face-to-face with the Town Manager.

The BOS turned their attention to the candidates in the community member category, which now included Mr. Lawrence, Mr. Shields, Ms. Lawton, Ms. Walker, Mr. Kramer, Mr. Curry, Ms. Kennedy, and Ms. Bisailon. Ms. Jenkins said she thought Mr. Curry's background was good for what they were trying to accomplish. [He is a 50-year resident in the field of interviewing and assessing.] Mr. Maddern recommended Ms. Fanning, who is a former head of the Council on Aging (COA) as well as a former Town Clerk, which he said was one of the highest customer interaction jobs the Town has. Mr. Hubbard said he thought they should choose Mr. Shields or Mr. Lawrence. Ms. Olson asked about Ms. Bisailon's background. She was on the School Committee and has been a resident for 33 years. Mr. Maddern recommended Mr. Lawrence, whose Selectmen experience predates the Town Manager position.

Duke Seaver, 402 Essex St., inquired about the number of members. He said it should be an odd number so they don't reach a deadlock. They agreed, telling him the alternate is a non-voting member.

Marcy Homer, 563 Bay Rd., noted some of the candidates are lawyers. Mr. Shields has been very active the last year or two and Ms. Kennedy is also an attorney. Chief Stevens said the Committee wouldn't be discussing points of law.

In the end, the BOS selected the following as members of the Screening Committee: **David Neill, Heather Ford, Jack Lawrence, Gene Lee, Patrick Reffett, Bob Curry, Mimi Fanning, and Jane Dooley (alternate).**

**Decision:**

Mr. Maddern made a motion to appoint the Screening Committee, listing them in the order above. Mr. Hubbard seconded the motion. The BOS voted unanimously (5-0) in favor of the motion.

Chief Stevens will reach out to all the candidates. Those selected will receive a letter saying they were selected by the BOS and the others will get a letter thanking them for applying. He will then forward the list to Mr. Lynch.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Olson made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. Mr. Maddern seconded the motion. The BOS voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Cookson      7-13-18  
Mary Alice Cookson      Date  
Minutes Secretary

Attest:

William Olson      8/13/18  
William Olson      Date  
Board of Selectmen Clerk