

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES  
Town Hall Council Chambers  
September 17, 2018, Monday**

Present: Michael Smart, President  
Arthur Mathews, Vice President  
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor  
Fred Happel, Councilor  
Ed Harrington, Councilor  
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor  
Christopher Heffernan  
Arthur Mathews, Councilor  
Brian McDonald, Councilor  
Michael Molisse, Councilor

Absent: Jane Hackett, Councilor

Also Present: Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor  
Lee Hultin, Asst. Town Clerk

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President Smart called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Assistant Town Clerk Lee Hultin called the roll, with one member absent. President Smart reported that Councilor Hackett was unable to attend due to a work commitment.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Councilor Harrington announced the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Great Pumpkin Giveaway on Saturday, October 13, 2018, from noon to 4PM at WHS. He provided a list of the events. He also announced that vaccines will also be available by the Health Department then.

Councilor Haugh announced Norfolk County Registrar of Deeds William P O'Donnell and his staff will host office hours on October 11, 2018 10 AM- noon in the Town Hall Chambers to answer resident concerns regarding deed matters.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**District Two Councilor Search Committee- Chairman Michael Molisse  
Committee Update and Recommendation  
Council to Interview Two Finalists**

Councilor Molisse reported that the District Two Councilor Search Committee met on September 5, 2018 and convened in Executive Session to interview candidates for the District 2 councilor opening. The President was notified of Councilor Lacey's resignation, and that the vacancy would exist effective July 1, 2018 and the President

formed a search committee to vet candidates. The position will be filled only to the end of the current term. The search committee consisted of Councilor Molisse as Chair and members Councilors Mathews and Smart. The position was posted and applications closed on August 17, 2018. Qualified candidates must be registered voters and a resident of District Two. Eight qualified candidates applied. The Town Clerk verified signatures.

The committee reconvened on September 12, 2018 and reviewed the search process. The committee then convened in executive session to interview the candidates and held a second session on September 12, 2018. One candidate withdrew prior to the process. This was a great group of candidates. At the conclusion of the interviews and after deliberation, the committee voted to forward two names to the full Town Council for consideration. Those applicants are Matthew Tallon and Maureen Kiely. A motion was made by Councilor Molisse that the Town Council accept the report from the selection committee, and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

President Smart reported the process moving forward. He thanked all of the candidates. It's not often the Council has a vacancy; this is only the second time in eighteen years. He proposed the two candidates be allowed to make an opening statement; then take questions from the Council. They would then motion to close the question/answer period and open nominations to name a candidate. The first candidate to receive the majority votes in support would be appointed. A motion was made by Vice President Mathews to accept the procedure offered by President Smart and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Mathew Tallon was invited to the table. He thanked the Councilors for their support. He noted that Councilor Lacey did a great job for the Council, and he would like to continue that work with the Council and administration. He likes what is being done in Weymouth and would like to continue that work. He respects that this is a tough decision by the Council.

He reviewed his personal history. He grew up in South Carolina and after college, a career in the army and in teaching. As a high school history teacher, he urged his students to get involved beyond exercising their vote. After moving to Weymouth, he got deeply involved in advocacy work in the area. He found the Idlewell Association was looking for new leaders, and he volunteered. This small decision five years ago splintered out into other advocacy efforts in District Two. He has crossed paths with many on the Council in the analysis of FEMA flood zone reevaluation. In 2012 the lines were redrawn and many residents now in the flood zone experienced an increase in insurance premiums. He worked to collect signatures to get the study redone. He also worked on road improvements and helped to redirect CDBG funds to other areas when the district lost its eligibility. He worked assisting to fix infrastructure when I/I identified leaking air and worked with the DPW Director.

When a Level 3 Sex offender showed up unannounced in the neighborhood, civic association meetings were held with police to build a relationship with parents to diffuse a repeat of a violent blowback. He has been having the difficult conversations with the

community. He also worked on zoning issues and attended many meetings with parallel implications- he supported overlay and billboard zoning. He was instrumental in successfully adjudicating to recraft zoning and also worked with the Conservation Commission meeting with a resident on multiple land donations to expand conservation areas and the acquisition of unpaid tax land. He supports a creative, holistic open space approach that touches District 1, 2 and 3. He has a meeting set up with the Traffic Engineer regarding an intersection issue. In the course of the last week, he is already actively addressing issues in District 2. He supports conservation expansion efforts while being smart about restrictions to maintain 1.5% land area to control affordable housing. He intervened in a sober home issue in the neighborhood in a location that wasn't viable. The owner instead sold to a single-family homebuyer. He also participated in efforts for Newell Park improvements.

He is patient and persistent and understands that not every issue in District 2 will be fixed right away. They must work within the framework of what is available now and he understands the town has other priorities. He has been involved in many micro-advocacy items over 5 years. He didn't just show up; he has been doing the work in concert with Councilor Lacey and views this opportunity as an extension of work already being done. This will make the community better for his family and the neighborhood. He is proud to have worked with Mayors Kay and Hedlund and has had a good rapport with both administrations. He will be able to work collaboratively with the Council. He is not looking for a higher office, but to be a part of making Weymouth better.

Councilor DiFazio noted he worked with Mr. Tallon on several issues and has therefore formed his own opinion. He was surprised at how much time Mr. Tallon has spent on the issues. He has fundraised and spent much time working with him and the BZA to prevent a development on High Street, which is on the perimeter of Districts 2 and 3. He also noted the neighbors present in support of him. It took a lot of effort meeting with neighbors. Mr. Tallon noted that they hired a lawyer and researched the matter. In four years of work and constant fundraising, and staying abreast and being an advocate. They still don't know what the outcome will be yet and it has not been easy to hold residents together. The effort by all is a tremendous source of pride.

Councilor DiFazio asked if he was the President of the Idlewell Neighborhood Association. Mr. Tallon responded yes. Councilor DiFazio asked if there are any other civic/neighborhood associations in the district. Mr. Tallon responded that there is a push to restart the Homestead/Landing association. He would reach out, having seen the value of the work. He would like to work with both. They worked cooperatively on a joint effort with N. Weymouth Civic Association.

Councilor Haugh noted Mr. Tallon has taken a pathway similar to hers. When she first started, they worked together fighting placement of a compressor station and high-pressure gas line through N. Weymouth and up through District 2. As of July 15<sup>th</sup>, Enbridge was still advertising this as a project in the works. Mr. Tallon responded that it is a big issue, and he didn't mean to gloss over and further noted that he is personally opposed to the project. He brought in Alice Arena and other members from FRRAC. The

volunteers were sought and assisted with placement of canisters in Idlewell for cross checking on air quality. He is well engaged in the fight. The recent events in Lawrence adds fuel to the fire in Weymouth.

In his closing remarks, Mr. Tallon reported that he was involved in local efforts such as the Superintendent search, and serves on the Library Construction Committee. He wants the Council to be aware he is not only concerned with the Idlewell area but takes a holistic approach. He has been active for five years and is not slowing down. Councilor Lacey has been both a friend and a mentor.

Ms. Kiely was invited to the table. She noted that she has been a resident for thirty years. She believes public service is rewarding and an investment in the community. Her interest in public service was piqued at an early age by a local representative campaign who taught her the importance of getting involved. Her husband is a lifelong Weymouth resident and they have raised three children. She was very involved in the schools and was one of the first appointed to the Town-wide Parent Council. She was active raising funds for Pop Warner for safe equipment and as a parent in the band programs. She has served on the Mayor's Events Committee. She is a graduate of BU and Mass Maritime. She was a community relations liaison between BU and the Boston Police Department. She brings a listening skillset to achieve goals and has spent tireless hours watching meetings. She understands the nature of the job and currently is working in the utilities industry. She owns a small business in town with her sisters. She was vocal about the gas lines on Broad Street and up to Summer Streets. She understands how these impact the community. She is familiar with the Library and Delegas project and has been active in these efforts. She understands the need to provide representation to residents, protecting open space, property development, overlay and maintaining a balance between residents and business. She is aware of the number of ways the opiate crisis affects the town; it touches public safety, tax values, and where tax dollars are being expended. As for the compressor station, the town will not reap the benefits; the town is posed with environmental impacts and health issues. She has always been interested in running for office but until now couldn't give the town appropriate time and still maintain a balance with work and family. She is a life learner and will do her due diligence. She has the strength and ability to build relationships.

Councilor Haugh noted she is an asset to the community and would like to know her position on the proposed compressor station. Ms. Kiely responded that she wouldn't want to see anything that would affect Weymouth in a negative way. As a Councilor, she would represent the voices of many people. She will be sure to see that she is well educated, well informed and will listen to the people she will represent.

Councilor McDonald asked if Ms. Kiely would have any potential conflict of interest with her work at Eversource and how would she balance opposition with the job? Ms. Kiely responded that she works on the electricity side of the utility. There is a right and wrong way to approach. If the people of the district do not want it, then that is what she would have to do.

Councilor DiFazio noted that the school department represents over 50% of the town budget. He asked what experience she has with the school department: net school spending and grade reconfiguration. Ms. Kiely responded that she doesn't have children in the system, but has kept up with the televised school committee meetings and understands budgeting from her role at Eversource.

Ms. Kiely noted in her closing remarks that she may not have every qualification but she is eager and willing to get the job done. Her good communication skills and diligence will overcome any deficits.

A motion was made by Vice President Mathews to close the candidate public comment and question period and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Vice President Mathews to open the nominations for District Two Councilor and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Councilor Harrington to nominate Maureen Kiely as District 2 Councilor and was seconded by Councilor Molisse. Vice President Mathews asked a procedural question; the first candidate to receive the majority vote will be the new councilor? President Smart responded yes.

Vice President Mathews noted that this is not an easy decision; both candidates will do an excellent job as both are qualified. They have to choose one. If the vacancy was for a Councilor at large, he would choose Ms. Kiely, but because it is for District 2, he feels Mr. Tallon is the most qualified candidate. It is not a reflection on Ms. Kiely's qualifications.

Councilor DiFazio noted that in his tenure on the Council he has faced a 10/1 vote many times. These are two people dedicated to the town. Ms. Kiely has passion, but Mr. Tallon has the experience already. He is the President of the Civic Association in the district; he attends many meetings and has spent many hours with the constituents. Because of this experience, he will not be supporting the motion to endorse Ms. Kiely.

Councilor Molisse reported he will support Ms. Kiely; she is dedicated to the town. He appreciates her efforts throughout the town. Mr. Tallon is a great advocate for the Idlewell neighborhood. This is a hard decision.

Councilor Haugh suggested it was the most difficult vote they have taken. She agrees with Councilor DiFazio and Vice President Mathews that Mr. Tallon is the qualified candidate. She would like to see Ms. Kiely in an at-large role on the Council. She will not support the motion.

President Smart reported that he will be supporting the motion. Ms. Kiely's work can't be discounted. Her work has prepared her for this role. She has the life work experience that qualifies her for this position.

Councilor Heffernan noted he is supporting the motion. He was impressed with Ms. Kiely's expansive resume and life and work experiences.

Councilor McDonald noted he was surprised at the candidates put forward. He anticipated another candidate to be included in the recommendation by the Search Committee. He is therefore supporting Ms. Kiely; he believes the Council would benefit from another woman's voice and he is going with his instincts.

Councilor Happel thanked the search committee and the candidates. They are two outstanding candidates. Whomever they choose has huge shoes to fill. He will be supporting the motion.

Councilor Harrington reported he will support the motion. He noted he has known Ms. Kiely as someone who has been getting the job done for over thirty years.

Councilor DiFazio noted he would be remiss if he did not state that he fails to see a connection between her volunteer service and Mr. Tallon's current active advocacy as experience that will best serve the town.

A Roll Call vote was taken:

Councilor DiFazio-NO, Councilor Happel- YES, Councilor Harrington-YES, Councilor Haugh- NO, Councilor Heffernan-YES, Councilor McDonald-YES, Councilor Molisse-YES, Vice President Mathews- NO, President Smart-YES. The Motion PASSED, 6-3

Councilor Molisse and President Smart thanked all of the applicants and the Councilors and staff. Councilor Molisse reported that this was a tough decision, and he urged the candidates who were not chosen to remain engaged. President Smart echoed his comments.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The next regular meeting of the Town Council has been scheduled for Monday, October 1, 2018.

At 8:41PM; there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Vice President Mathews to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Molisse.  
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

## **ATTACHMENTS:**

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary.

Approved by Michael Smart as President of the Town Council.  
Voted unanimously on 15 October 2018