

**TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
EXECUTIVE SESSION
DISTRICT TWO SEARCH COMMITTEE
Town Hall Council Chambers
September 5, 2018, Tuesday**

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman
Arthur Mathews, Councilor
Michael Smart, Councilor

Also Present: Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

A motion was made by Councilor Smart to enter into executive session to consider and interview candidates for the District 2 Councilor vacancy because in his opinion, an open meeting will have a detrimental effect in obtaining qualified applicants. The motion was seconded by Councilor Mathews. A Roll Call vote was taken: Councilor Molisse- Yes, Councilor Mathews- Yes, Councilor Smart-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Each of the candidates was invited to make an opening statement and then presented with two questions by each of the committee members. Councilor Smart asked questions 1 and 3, Councilor Mathews asked questions 5 and 7 and the chair asked questions 12 and 15 from a prepared list.

Candidate #4 was invited to the table and given an opportunity to present an opening statement. Candidate #4 provided pertinent background and qualifications that included other civic involvement. Candidate #4 presented an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the Town Council and spoke to items in the Idlewell, Landing and other district areas and was knowledgeable of the boundaries. Candidate #4 provided an opinion on the most important items facing the district, including smart redevelopment of the Landing, incorporating Tufts, landscape redesign of Weston Park, traffic issues, conservation expansion in Idlewell, and advocating for the town to maintain control and compliance over its affordable housing. Candidate #4 approved disclosure of his/her name whether selected as a finalist, or not.

The committee then discussed Candidate #4's interview. Councilor Smart noted Candidate #4 was familiar with the role of the Council. Chairman Molisse noted the candidate is knowledgeable of the district. Councilor Mathews noted that the candidate has accomplished a lot in a short amount of time.

Candidate #6 was invited to the table and given the opportunity to make an opening statement. Candidate #6 noted his volunteer experience and familiarity with the district. Candidate #6 was asked understanding of the role of the Council. Candidate #6 responded that the town has a strong Mayoral form of government. The role of the Council is to approve a budget. Candidate #6 noted the most important items in the

district are addressing the stalled development in the Landing, additional revenue and water for Union Point. Candidate #6 approved disclosure of his/her name whether selected as a finalist, or not.

The committee then discussed Candidate #6's interview. Councilor Smart noted the role of a Council is a lot more than approving a budget. The candidate does know some of the issues. Chair Molisse noted his concern with the lack of the candidate's understanding of the issues. Councilor Mathews suggested that should be taken into consideration.

Candidate #5 was invited to the table and given the opportunity to make an opening statement. Candidate #5 noted he was planning a run for Council but Councilor Lacey was doing a good job. Candidate #5 reviewed his volunteer experience and noted familiarity with the streets of the district (and has a map). Candidate #5 noted the role of the Council is as a legislative branch and a budget check of the Mayor. Candidate #5 suggested the most important matter facing the district are the 14-house development proposal, the library construction. Candidate #5 approved disclosure of his/her name whether selected as a finalist, or not.

The committee then discussed Candidate #5's interview. Councilor Mathews noted that some candidates don't understand the process and this is in the charter. He was impressed with candidate's knowledge of the area. Councilor Smart noted that some of the candidate's civic efforts were prior to 2000. It's been a while and scores of issues have come up that the candidate didn't seem too involved with. He noted some of the earlier candidates displayed a better understanding and involvement. Chair Molisse suggested it will be important to complement the Council with someone who can work cooperatively with the rest of the members.

Candidate #8 was invited to the table and given the opportunity to make an opening statement. Candidate #8 noted the positive momentum of the development in town; the Landing, Library, parks and schools and Chapman. Candidate #8 reviewed experience in volunteer and civic service to the town. Candidate #8 noted familiarity with the streets of District 2 and the town after having secured signatures. Candidate #8 explained knowledge of the role of the Council as an oversight on the executive branch, approval of ordinances, budgets, appropriations, appointments and zoning. Candidate #8 suggested the most important issue facing District 2 is maintaining a balance of economic development with the needs of the existing neighborhood. There are four properties in the Landing in various stages of development; the uncertainty is scarier than what happens. Candidate #8 noted that what that makes a good candidate is constituent services and good listening skills. Candidate #8 approved disclosure of his/her name whether selected as a finalist, or not.

The committee then discussed Candidate #8's interview. Councilor Mathews noted he was impressed with the last candidate's knowledge and understanding of the role of the Council. Candidate #8 displayed experience in both the forms of government and roles. Councilor Smart suggested past experiences and service makes Candidate #8 a very good candidate.

Chairman Molisse agreed. He asked if the committee would want to rate candidates. Councilor Mathews noted he would not feel comfortable to consider rating until after all candidates are interviewed. The next group will be interviewed on September 12th and the committee can then determine how to move forward with a recommendation to the full Town Council. The next meeting will reconvene in Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

At 8:26 PM, there being no further business, a MOTION was made by Councilor Smart to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Mathews. A Roll Call vote was taken: Councilor Smart- YES, Vice Chair Mathews- YES, Chair Molisse- YES. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Chairman Michael Molisse-District 2 Search Committee

Voted Unanimously 10/15/18