

APPROVED

**WEYMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
District 6 Councilor Search Committee
April 23, 2020, Thursday
VIA ZOOM #81686120321**

Present: Michael Molisse, Chairman
Arthur Mathews, Vice Chairman
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor
Fred Happel, Councilor

Absent: Maureen Kiely, Councilor

Also Present: Kathy Deree, Town Clerk
Joe Callanan, Town Solicitor

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair Molisse called the meeting to order at 6:47 PM. Town Clerk Kathy Deree called the roll with one member absent; Chair Molisse reported that Councilor Kiely called to let him know that she would be unable to attend.

Chair Michael Molisse announced that the replacement process is necessary due to the resignation of Michael Smart on February 3, 2020, after 18 years service. He served 6 years as council president. He reviewed the process:

Discussion of Process and Logistics

Pursuant to 2-11 of the Town Charter:

“SECTION 2-11 FILLING OF VACANCIES

(c)

Filling of Vacancies By Town Council - Whenever a vacancy shall occur in the office of councillor-at-large or in that of district councillor and there is no available candidate to fill such vacancy in the manner provided in section 2-11(a) or (b), the vacancy shall be filled by the remaining members of the town council. Persons elected to fill a vacancy by the town council shall serve only until the next regular election at which time the vacancy shall be filled by the voters and the person chosen to fill such vacancy shall forthwith be sworn and shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term in addition to the term for which elected. Persons serving as town councillors under this section shall not be entitled to have the words "candidate for reelection" printed against their names on the election ballot.”

The matter was presented by the Town Council president at the February 3, 2020 council meeting. The information was posted to solicit applications for candidates from the district, with a filing deadline of March 16, 2020. The applications were received and

verified for residency and voter registration status. The process of filling the seat was delayed due to the current Covid-19 State of Emergency. President Mathews invited councilors who expressed an interest to serve on the search committee, and has selected the current five members. Twelve applications/resumes were received from interested candidates and will be screened by the committee. These candidates will be numbered, with no mention of names. This mirrors the process of the selection of district 2.

Meetings will begin in open session and enter into executive session to conduct interviews. The Solicitor provided a guideline to the committee, A list of ten questions were formulated – each candidate will be asked the same set of questions in two executive sessions. Six candidates will be interviewed each night; and then the committee will narrow their field to put recommendations forward for consideration by the full town council. Twenty minutes will be allotted to each candidate. Both the April 27, 2020 and May 4, 2020 are busy Town Council meetings. The chair anticipates May 6th and 7th for interviews. He acknowledged that the process will be a challenge through Zoom.

Vice Chair Mathews added that the finalists will be interviewed by the full town Council in open session. The chair asked if the committee members are available for the two dates and times. All confirmed their availability.

Discussion of Common Questions to Ask Each Candidate

The committee members were each supplied with the same list of ten questions. Each member will ask each candidate the same two questions from the list.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Mathews to choose questions 2 and 6 and was seconded by Councilor Happel. A roll call vote was taken; Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Heffernan- Yes, Vice Chair Mathews- Yes, Chair Molisse-Yes.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Councilor Happel to choose questions 1 and 8 and was seconded by Vice Chair Mathews. A roll call vote was taken; Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Heffernan- Yes, Vice Chair Mathews- Yes, Chair Molisse-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Councilor Heffernan to choose questions 7 and 9 and was seconded by Vice Chair Mathews. A roll call vote was taken; Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Heffernan- Yes, Vice Chair Mathews- Yes, Chair Molisse-Yes.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Mathews that Chair Molisse selects questions 10 and 4 and was seconded by Councilor Happel. A roll call vote was taken; Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Heffernan- Yes, Vice Chair Mathews- Yes, Chair Molisse-Yes.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Vice Chair Mathews to assign Councilor Kiely questions 3 and 5 and was seconded by Councilor Happel. A roll call vote was taken; Councilor Happel-

Yes, Councilor Heffernan- Yes, Vice Chair Mathews- Yes, Chair Molisse-Yes.
UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Vice Chair Mathews noted that the candidates will be numbered one to twelve, and will be interviewed in the order of the receipt of their applications (based on their availability). The council assistant will contact the candidates to schedule them for interviews.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:02 PM, there being no further business, a Motion was made by Councilor Heffernan to Adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Vice Chair Mathews. A roll call vote was taken; Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Heffernan- Yes, Vice Chair Mathews- Yes, Chair Molisse-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Barker, Recording Secretary

Approved by as Chair of the District Six Councilor Search Committee
Michael Molisse
Voted unanimously on 18 May 2020