



**SELECT BOARD
MINUTES
February 16, 2021
Via ZOOM**

Members present: Tom Alonzo, Chairman; Michael-Ray Jeffreys, Vice Chairman; Katey Adams, Clerk; Todd Dwyer

Not Present: Jim Marino, Member; Heather Lemieux, Town Manager

Also Present: Elaine Peterson, Executive Assistant; Police, Lt. Jeff Thibodeau, Joel Ortega

Chairman Alonzo called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and announced in accordance with the requirements of the Open Meeting Law, please be advised that this meeting is being recorded and broadcast over the Lunenburg public access channel. In accordance with the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G. L. c. 30A, § 20, all public meetings are being conducted remotely. Mr. Alonzo read the remote meeting information for anyone who would like to join the meeting. He asked if everyone was present by roll call.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance that was recited by Ms. Adams.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was none at this time.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Alonzo announced there has been an ongoing issue with broadcasting hardware for public access Channel 8 and PAC is working with the vendor to resolve it.

Tomorrow night the Conservation Commission will be holding their public hearing via Zoom regarding modifications to their land use policy and rules. Hunting with firearms on conservation land is part of that. Public comment is welcomed. Details on how to attend are on the town website.

I. INTERVIEWS/APPOINTMENTS/ RE-APPOINTMENTS/ RESIGNATIONS

Ratification of the Town Manager's Appointment of Police Reserve Officer Joel Ortega

Lt. Thibodeau read aloud Chief Gammel's letter of recommendation for appointment.

"Joel is a resident of Fitchburg and is currently employed full time at the Honda Store in Lancaster, MA, where he has maintained his employment since an internship through his high school. Joel graduated in 2013 from Leominster High School Center for Technical Education Innovation. Joel is also a 2018 graduate of Mount Wachusett Community College, obtaining an Associate of Science in Criminal Justice Degree. Joel is fluent in two languages, English and Spanish.

Joel has completed the Massachusetts Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) Reserve Intermittent Academy, in June of 2020, in accordance with G.L. 41 § 96B. Joel has successfully completed the Background Investigation, Pre-employment Physical, and the Psychological Examination.

Through his background investigation it was found that Joel is a very dedicated, honest, and a well thought of person. Joel was described as "one of the best humans on the planet,"

Joel completed an internship with Westminster PD where members stated they were "jealous" that we hiring Joel before them. I have spoken extensively with Joel, and I believe he would be a good fit for the Lunenburg Police Department, and the Community. Through the conversations I have had with Joel I found him to be very polite and professional. Joel will have a bright future with the Department, and I am pleased to present him as a candidate as a Reserve Police Officer. Thank you for your consideration of my request."

Mr. Ortega thanked the board for the opportunity and looked forward to working at the Lunenburg Police Department.

Mr. Alonzo stated he has had the utmost respect for the choices of the Police Department under the several Chiefs that have served the Town while under his tenure. I know they choose the best candidates. He looked forward to the same outstanding performance from Officer Ortega.

Motion: K. Adams

2nd: M. Jeffreys

To ratify the Town Manager appointment of Joel Ortega to Reserve Police Officer

Discussion: Mr. Jeffreys thanked Mr. Ortega for applying for the position and looked forward to him joining the team.

Vote: Mr. Dwyer-aye, Ms. Adams- aye, Mr. Jeffreys- aye, Mr. Alonzo- aye

I. CURRENT BUSINESS

1. Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2021

Motion: K. Adams

2nd: T. Dwyer

To approve the minutes of February 2, 2021 as presented

Vote: Mr. Dwyer-aye, Ms. Adams-aye, Mr. Jeffreys- aye, Mr. Alonzo-aye

2. Warrants

Mr. Alonzo reported Mr. Jeffreys signed the following warrant in his absence:

- Accounts Payable Warrant #37 21, dated 2/9/2021, in the amount of \$474,903.35

3. Action Items

Ms. Adams requested follow up on her request for the Board to meet with the Lunenburg Water District Commissioners regarding a developer's request to install water lines along Howard Street and the subsequent impact on the newly paved road and the pavement moratorium. Mr. Alonzo reported Town Manager had extended an invitation to the commission and was waiting for a confirmed meeting date. He added the commission did not take any action after that second meeting with the developer.

Ms. Adams asked for the date of the second Zoom Community Outreach meeting for Green Leaf Botanical for the proposed marijuana retail business to be located on Mass. Ave. Mr. Alonzo reported March 10th had been determined to be the best night and they would be using the Select Board's Zoom id to facilitate easier access for the public.

4. Committee Reports- there were none this evening

I. OLD BUSINESS

5. Discussion on Fiscal Year 2022 Budget, Capital Plan, Financial Forecast and Annual Town Meeting Warrant articles

Mr. Jeffreys reported he had sent a draft article to Mr. Alonzo and Ms. Lemieux with proposed changes to the Architectural Preservation District by-law as it pertains to municipal buildings in the district. Mr. Alonzo reported it would be placed for discussion on the March 2nd agenda.

WORKSHOP - To review, discuss and revise (where needed) the re-appointment process of all annual Select Board appointments and to formalize that process into a policy for distribution.

Mr. Alonzo referred the Board members to their individual suggestions for amending the reappointment process.

Mr. Alonzo suggested the first step would be to generate a list of which appointed terms expire in the upcoming June. Ms. Peterson would provide the list. The list would consist of the appointed body, the person whose term is expiring and the length of the term.

Mr. Alonzo suggested the next step would be notification to the people whose terms are expiring and their boards' chairs. Mr. Jeffreys suggested asking the person first if they intended to apply for reappointment. Mr. Dwyer suggested sending out a blanket email to all the people and their chairs. The board concurred.

Next the person should be asked if they want to be considered for the position again and they should respond in writing; they should alert their Chair as a courtesy, and the Select Board.

Mr. Alonzo stated the list should then be made available to the public; should we indicate in that list that someone is interested in being reappointed to the position?

Ms. Adams thought it made sense. Mr. Dwyer stated yes because then we could solicit comments from the public. Mr. Jeffreys and Mr. Alonzo agreed.

Mr. Alonzo stated the list should be published in the local newspaper. Mr. Dwyer suggested soliciting input from the board members that the person has been on. They have the best knowledge of the performance of the people who have been working there. Ms. Adams felt only soliciting from board members contributes to "business as usual" in a way that makes it harder for new people to contribute.

Mr. Dwyer asked if anyone would be open to term limits. Mr. Alonzo stated he was strongly against term limits. Mr. Jeffreys asked for clarification from Mr. Dwyer on soliciting input from the entire board, would this happen before advertising the position? Mr. Dwyer stated this would only come to the Select Board as well as whether the vote was unanimous or split as well as the public comment. Mr. Jeffreys disagreed with getting the entire board's input because people on the same board could disagree on different subjects. He preferred the Chair indicate their thoughts on the appointment after soliciting input from the other members such as how well they participated and their meeting attendance record etc.

Ms. Adams noted term limits came up during the recent Town Charter review. It was decided against so as not to make a vacancy harder to fill, particularly if only one person was interested in the position. She also believed public input is the most important part of this process because they can't vote as with an elected position.

After more discussion, Mr. Alonzo summarized that when the list is completed, we are going to ask the person who is up for reappointment if they are still interested in staying on and we would encourage their current board and chair to provide input to the Select Board regarding their reappointment. Suggestion was made for the Select Board to entertain the incumbent's reappointment request before they interview new applicants. Three members did not concur.

Mr. Alonzo moved on to new applicants, suggesting they submit a Talent Bank form to the Select Board's office. Discussion ensued about changing the name for the Talent Bank Form. Mr. Alonzo stated he would like new applicants to attend at least one meeting of the board they would like to be appointed to and meet the board members. Suggestion was made to recommend/encourage but not mandate this. A good question to ask when interviewing would be if they had attended any meetings.

The next step would be scheduling interviewing of all applicants which would have to be in early June. It would also be desirable to interview all applicants on the same evening.

Mr. Jeffreys asked Ms. Peterson in her experience in the process of reaching out to people during the reappointment process did she have anything the Board should take into account.

Ms. Peterson could not think of anything specific but after looking at all their different suggestions for the process noted they were doing a good job at amending it.

Suggestion was made to change the talent bank form title to "committee involvement form."

Discussion ensued about when there are multiple appointments for the same board and the order of voting to appoint by the Select Board.

Due to Mr. Marino's absence and Ms. Adams having to leave the meeting the discussion was tabled until a future date with a full board present. Mr. Alonzo will compile all the steps and attempt to finish up the remainder of the process for future discussion.

UPCOMING MEETING/EVENTS SCHEDULE

Mr. Alonzo noted the next meetings for this board are March 2nd, March 9th, March 16th and March 23rd.

March 10th will be the Green Leaf Community Outreach Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT- there was none at this time.

Motion: M. Jeffreys

2nd: T. Dwyer

To adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Vote: Ms. Adams- aye, Mr. Dwyer-aye, Mr. Jeffreys- aye, Mr. Alonzo-aye

Respectfully submitted,



Elaine M. Peterson

Executive Assistant to the Town Manager