

***Wellfleet Selectboard
Hybrid Meeting:
75 Old King's Highway/Zoom
Tuesday January 30, 2024; 5pm
Meeting Minutes***

Members Present: Barbara Carboni, Chair; John Wolf, Vice Chair; Michael DeVasto, Ryan Curley, Tim Sayre

Others Present: Rich Waldo, Town Administrator; Silvio Genoa, Assistant Town Administrator; Rebekah Eldridge, Executive Assistant; Kevin LaRocco, Police Chief; Michael Turner, Daniel Almas, Kathleen Bacon, Brad Morse, Diane Brunt, Maurice Grunberg

Chair Carboni Called the meeting to order at 5:05pm

I. *Announcements and Public Comments*

Note: Public comments are limited to no more than three minutes per speaker. A speaker may speak once during open comments. The Board will not deliberate or

vote on any matter raised solely during Announcements & Public Comments.

Chair Carboni asked for announcements, Curley stated he was the person to ask for a change of venue, he stated his concern was for capacity. Chair Carboni read the conduct of speech document to the board and the public.

Bacon came to the microphone and spoke about the community's trust in the selectboard is at an all time low. She spoke about the lack of ethics and gave the example that a member of the selectboard handed out a document from town counsel to the shellfish advisory board without the board's knowledge.

Curley stated that he doesn't feel this is a working meeting. Chair Carboni stated that she sought opinion from town counsel about taking votes and town counsel informed her that the board was free to take any action they choose.

Morse spoke to the board stating he would like to address Bacon's comment, giving his explanation of his actions.

Brunt spoke to the board stating about asking the board and town administration about public complaints. She stated she felt the board was stalling on the reinstituting on the personnel board, and the complaint process.

Grunberg spoke to the board stating his complaints to the library noise haven't been addressed.

II. *Board Action – Police Department*

A. Appointment of Daniel Almas as Full Time Police Officer.

Chair Carboni asked Chief LaRocco to come to the table. He introduced Almas to the board and public. He gave Almas's background stating he was ready to go to the academy and just needed the board's support to attend the academy.

Board Member Curley Moved; Board Member DeVasto Seconded; and it was voted to appoint Daniel Almas as a full-time police officer for the town of Wellfleet effective once completion of Massachusetts Police Academy.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

- B.** Promotion of Lieutenant Michael Turner to position of Deputy Chief
Lt. Turner was asked to come to the table, LaRocco spoke to the board about Turner's accomplishments in the town of Wellfleet and read some background information on Turner. He stated he is the most senior staff and deserves this promotion. Sayre questioned Turner about what the FBI course that he had previously taken was about. Chair Carboni asked the board and public to offer any comments on Lt Turner. DeVasto thanked Turner for his many years of service to the town. Curley spoke to that as well and thanked Turner for his leadership. Turner thanked the board for this opportunity.

Board Member Moved; Board Member Seconded, and it was voted to approve the promotion of Michael Turner to the position of Deputy Chief effective February 5, 2024, pending contract negotiations with the Town Administrator.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

III. *Board Action – Town Accountant*

- A.** Appointment of Suzanne Moquin as Town accountant by the Town Administrator. The Selectboard will vote to approve the Town Administrator's appointment within the fourteen-day notice period.
Chair Carboni asked Waldo to present the next agenda item. Waldo stated that after 13 months of searching and the town being without a town accountant, they administration was able to recruit this person and interview her about experience and expectations for the town. He gave a brief update on her previous experience in other towns as an accountant. Chair Carboni asked the board for questions and comments, DeVasto stated he felt it was great the town has someone who knows Massachusetts finance law. Wolf spoke about her previous experience. Genoa spoke to the board stating that Moquin will be able to teach the finance team more about municipal finances. Curley brought up her lack of being able to certify free cash and his unwillingness to support this. DeVasto stated that this was a newspaper article. The board discussed this. Remote work was discussed.

Board Member DeVasto Moved; Board Member Wolf Seconded; and it was voted to waive the selectboard's 14 day right of disapproval of the Wellfleet Charter and approve the hire of the town accountant.

Discussion followed; Wolf made a statement that the town has the opportunity to hire someone with experience and the ability to educate the staff about municipal finance. HE stated this is a chance the board needs to take. Chair Carboni spoke to the board stating she feels this isn't a chance this is someone who wants to come to Wellfleet and help with the financial issues.

Roll Call Vote: 3-0 (Sayre and Curley voted no)

IV. *Board Action – Appointment of Interim Town Administrator*

- A.** Discussion of candidates and vote on appointment of Interim Town Administrator.
Board Member Curley asked the board to have some discussion on each applicant. The board began with Harry Terkanian, stating that he has worked for the town in the past and has experience with the town. Wolf stated the one thing that bothered

him was the amount of time that Terkanian was willing to spend in the roll and his lack of being proactive, the board continued discussion.

There was a disruption in the meeting, so Chair Carboni took a five-minute recess.

The meeting came back to order at 6:06pm.

The board continued discussion on Terkanian.

The board moved onto Elizabeth Hartgrove, DeVasto spoke of her experience and stated there are other candidates that have a strong background and gave reasons why he doesn't feel she would be ready for this job. He spoke about her strengths. Wolf gave his opinion about her being a good candidate but maybe for ATA not TA. Curley stated he was impressed with her interview as was Sayre, stating he has heard pros and cons from staff about her being hired.

The board discussed her and then moved on to Tom Guerino and discussed his experience and abilities to do the job.

Kenneth Eldridge was the next candidate to be discussed and the board discussed his ability to work in the municipal part of the town. Stating he has a lot of private sector experience but not much municipal experience. The board finished their discussions and then decided to rank their top two candidates.

Tom and Harry were the top candidates for this position. The board discussed both candidates.

They did a straw poll, and it was decided that Tom was the candidate they would choose.

Chair Carboni Moved, Board Member Curley Seconded, and it was voted to appoint Tom Guerino as interim Town Administrator subject to successful contract negotiations consistent with the charter and, should contract negotiations be unsuccessful to appoint Harry Terkanian as interim Town Administrator subject to successful contract negotiations.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

Board Member Curley moved, Board Member Sayre Seconded; and it was voted to approve that the

Roll Call Vote: 509

V. *Complaint Process*

- A.** Administration staff will present the board with a draft policy on complaints for discussion and potential votes.

The board moved on to the complaint process for the town. Genoa spoke to the draft policy on complaints and explained to the board this was a lean draft and take a look at and make comments and then the administration will make the changes. The board discussed the policy and how to move forward. They discussed the options they could take. Genoa gave advice on how the board could move forward with complaints, dealing with department heads all the way to the selectboard. The board went paragraph by paragraph with the draft policy.

The board agreed after much discussion to table this and send their amendments to administration.

VI. *Personnel Board*

- A.** Current Status

The board moved onto discussion of the personnel board and the status of it.

Waldo spoke to the board about the personnel board stating right now there is not

a current acting board. He spoke about the Collins Center report, stating that the board should disband the personnel board as the town now has a human resource department. The board discussed the board and their options moving forward. This will be discussed at another meeting.

VII. *Town Counsel Opinion on Shellfish Department Deputy Position*

A. Waiver of Attorney – client privilege

Chair Carboni spoke to the board about waiving attorney client privilege. The board discussed allowing decisions from town counsel to be released without a board vote. Chair Carboni stated she was not comfortable releasing any opinion from town counsel without the board's vote or knowledge. The board discussed allowing the chair to make the decision to release town counsel's opinion if they feel it, isn't a detrimental issue.

Board Member DeVasto Moved; Board Member Wolf Seconded; and it was voted to authorize the chair of the selectboard to make a determination as to the confidential nature of a legal opinion and to then release it to another public body and or the public at large.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

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B. Release of opinion

The board moved on to releasing the opinion that was asked by the shellfish advisory board.

Board Member DeVasto Moved; Board Member Wolf Seconded; and it was voted to release to the public the attorney's opinion pertaining to the shellfish department's hire.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

VIII. *Adjournment*

Board Member DeVasto Moved; Board Member Sayre Seconded; and it was voted to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote: 5-0

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm

*****Public Documents*****

Police Department Documents for full time police officer

Police Department Documents for promotion of Deputy Chief

Interim Town Administrator's resumes

Draft Policy for complaint process

Town Counsel Opinion on the Shellfish Department hire