

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 5, 2014
SPECIAL MEETING

Members Present: Nelson Almeida, Gary Sagar, Michael Brady,
Robert McLintock, David Parker

Interim Town Administrator Gary Stenhouse and Alan Gould of Municipal Resources were in attendance.

Chairman Almeida called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

He announced that, in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, anybody taping the meeting must notify the Chairman.

Laura Calverley of The Attleboro Sun advised that she was taping.

Conduct Interviews of the Finalist for the Town Administrator Position

Kimberly D. Newman of Lyndon, Kansas
Sean Hendricks of Uxbridge, MA
Shawn E. Cadime of Fall River, MA

Mr. Mark Gould of Municipal Resources stated that the process started about three months ago. Since that time, Gary Stenhouse has been in the community and served as Interim Town Administrator. They obtained 45 resumes for the position. Those were screened and scored by at least two members of the search team. They came from 18 states and one from a foreign country. One candidate had a PhD, nine had juris doctorate and 23 had masters' degrees.

The field was narrowed down to 19. Essay questions were sent out. Candidates had ten days to submit the essays. They reviewed and scored those essays. That led to another cut. About 15 candidates were interviewed by phone via conference call to see how they would fit into Seekonk. They narrowed it down to five, which they interviewed all day today. There are three finalists to be interviewed by the Board.

Board members asked the same questions of all three candidates.

Kimberly Newman said she is originally from RI and has family in the area. She attended the University of Rhode Island. She has been working toward her goal to be a town manager in New England. She now has the opportunity to move back into a community with her family.

In her comments, she mentioned that she was able to create a more positive climate in her community. She is a grant writer. She felt she would be a good fit in Seekonk.

Sean Hendricks said he is relatively new in the profession. He saw similarities in Uxbridge and Seekonk. Uxbridge is still looking to find its way. Seekonk is more progressive and he is

looking to get more pay. In talking to residents, he found there was a disconnect, and he was able to bridge the gap between the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Parker was impressed by his military service.

Shawn Cadime was a member of the Fall River School Committee for three years and City Administrator in Fall River. He is passionate and has a strong work ethic. He holds himself to a very high standard.

He felt that Seekonk offers a great quality of life with the commercial aspects, shopping, restaurants, open space, recreation, and residential suburb feeling.

He enjoys challenges and needs to be challenged.

He spoke to Gary Stenhouse and Richard Gonsalves, former tax assessor. He tried to reach out to William Keagan, a former town administrator, to get an understanding of his perspective.

He noted that in Fall River he completed three years of audits in a year and a half.

Mr. Gould said that each of the candidates could do this job. It comes down to personality. The best fit and long term arrangement would be Shawn Cadime.

Mr. Stenhouse said Mr. Cadime has a good grasp of the area.

Mr. Gould noted that these applicants went through a rigorous process to get here. Mr. Cadime has a proven track record with pretty difficult situations in Fall River.

Mr. Brady expressed concern that Mr. Cadime said he would stay here as long as it was challenging. He is very smart and driven and people like that need challenge.

Mr. Gould said he would be disappointed if a candidate didn't say that. He would have more hands on in Seekonk.

Mr. McLintock was impressed with his resume. But, his background is dealing with a big city. It is not the same in this town. He felt that this is not the place for him. The Board can't afford to make another mistake.

Mr. Sagar said he has a lot of balance. He has been an elected official and he has experience with schools. Mr. Gonsalves had all good things to say about him.

Mr. Brady felt they need someone who will stand up to the odd personalities and strong willed people of this town, even those who might be on other boards and committees.

He noted that each of the candidates has certain aspects. He liked the fact that Mrs. Newman is a grant writer and Mr. Hendricks is an attorney. He liked the fact that Mr. Cadime has a very strong financial background.

Mr. McLintock felt that Mr. Gould and Mr. Stenhouse did an outstanding job in the selection process.

There was question about making an appointment because it was not an agenda item.

Mr. Gould noted that a background check takes about two weeks.

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. McLintock, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize MRI to make a conditional offer of employment to Shawn E. Cadime, with the condition of a successful background investigation, successful negotiations of employment agreement, and medical clearance.

The vote: Mr. Sagar – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Parker – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Aye.

Mr. Sagar stated that in the years he has been on the Board, the great decision he made was to hire MRI and bring in Mr. Stenhouse.

Mr. Gould thanked the Board for putting trust in MRI. He knew that Mr. Stenhouse was the person for this town.

June Town Meeting

A motion was made by Mr. Sagar, seconded by Mr. Parker, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To set June 9, 2014 as the date for the June Town Meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Parker, seconded by Mr. McLintock, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To dissolve at 8 p.m.

The vote: Mr. Parker – Aye; Mr. McLintock – Aye; Mr. Brady – Aye; Mr. Sagar – Aye; Chairman Almeida – Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Brady, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

