

**Carver Select Board
Meeting Minutes
Town Hall
December 16, 2021 - 11:00am**

In Attendance: Chair Mark Townsend, Vice-Chair Sarah Hewins, Jen Bogart, Jim Hoffman, Assistant Town Administrator Elaine Weston & Shelby Roy.

Via remote participation: Robert Belbin

The Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance and Bogart read the community prayer.

Discussion and possible vote to appoint an Interim Town Administrator & to designate a sub-committee for the purpose of negotiating a contract with the Interim Town Administrator, contingent upon successful background and reference check.

Townsend thanked Kris Gardiner from Area 58 for filming all day yesterday. Even after the meeting was over he made the effort to go back to the studio to post the meeting online.

Townsend informed the Board that Thomas Guerino has withdrawn.

Each member of the Board chose their top two options:

Hewins – Robert Reed & Robert Fennessy

Bogart – Robert Reed & Robert Fennessy

Hoffman – Robert Reed & Robert Fennessy

Townsend – Robert Reed & Robert Fennessy

Belbin – Robert Fennessy & Robert Reed

Bogart explained that this decision was not easy to make, but was very pleased with the candidates.

Hoffman asked the Board what type of qualities are they looking for when it comes to a long-term vs short-term interim.

Townsend explained that they are very similar, but would have to restrict on what the Interim would be able to do.

Hewins explained that having someone with experience as Town Administrator is helpful because they know the job. Being able to find someone that can do more than babysit, but at the same time not having anything drastic happen.

Townsend called a two minute break to fix the technical difficulties with the Zoom call with Belbin at 11:13am.

Meeting called back to order at 11:15am and Belbin is now via Cell Phone.

Townsend's comments on Reed:

- It was fair that he did not want to be a permanent Town Administrator.
- Has experience with a size of town similar to Carver.
- He has lots of experience as Interim Town Administrator.

Townsend's comments on Fennessy:

- He has had experience as Town Administrator.
- He has had experience working at the Town of Kingston.
- He has a good combination of legal and municipal experience.
- Only one that had mentioned the residents in his answers.
- He had read the Financial Policies.

Townsend was impressed with both of these candidates because they were very good applicants. Applicant Michael Sullivan had a good interview, but he felt as though he did not have much experience.

Hewins comments on Reed:

- Reed did talk about the residents as well, but may have not used that specific word. He mentioned the COA Center.
- He looked at DOR, Department of Local Revenue and Local Services.

Hewins comments on Fennessy:

- She noticed that he wanted to bring more industry into the Town and mentioned zoning changes.
- She believed that residents would not want this.

Belbin's comments on Fennessy:

- He was spot on with his idea on what an Interim role is and what they can and cannot do. He had a very good interview.

Bogart explained how she thought it was nice that the Board is in a general consensus with their decisions.

Bogart's comments on Fennessy:

- He is familiar with Carver.

Bogart explained that she appreciated their honesty and when they were unsure of something they told the Board.

Bogart's comments on Reed:

- He understood what the Board was looking for.
- Seems to take the role of Interim seriously.
- He wanted to show that all employees are valued.
- He has been a successful Interim Town Administrator.

Bogart believes that the Town would do well with both of these candidates.

Hoffman's comments on Reed:

- He has experience as Interim Town Administrator.
- Familiar with the Master Plan.
- The only negative he had was that he would only be in the office three days of the week.

Hoffman's comments on Fennessy:

- He had a great interview.
- He liked his background experience.
- He is familiar with the area.

Hewins explained that whoever comes in as Interim Town Administrator should not make the Town a reflection of themselves.

Townsend made a motion to appoint Robert Fennessy as the Interim Town Administrator based off of the Board discussion to negotiate a contract and contingent upon a successful background and reference check, second by Belbin.

Discussion –

Townsend explained the importance of communication.

Bogart mentioned that Reed did mention how communication is so important.

Hoffman noticed that Reed liked to work during the winter and took this as a negative.

Hewins responded to Hoffman's comment and did not take this as a negative, it was a positive for her.

Belbin explained that Fennessy has a background with being a local lawyer, selectmen and is able to look at things with a different perspective.

Bogart asked to give her a moment of silence to gather her thoughts to make a decision.

Roll Call – affirmative: Belbin, Townsend, Hewins, Bogart, Hoffman.

Townsend made a motion to appoint Jim Hoffman and Sarah Hewins as the negotiating committee and to meet with Robert Fennessy, second by Bogart.

Roll Call – affirmative: Belbin, Townsend, Hewins, Bogart, Hoffman.

Hewins made a motion to adjourn at 11:45am, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Belbin thanked Area 58 for making the effort and taking the time to help with the recording and posting of these Select Board meetings.