

APPROVED ON 11-6-12

Board of Selectmen – Minutes of Meeting

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES OF MEETING – OCTOBER 10, 2012

Present: Patricia D. Carlino, Chairman, Gordon D. Bailey and David J. Consolati, Board of Selectmen, Robert L. Nason, Town Administrator.

Chairman, Patricia D. Carlino, called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM.

1. **Council on Aging Director:** Mr. Nason recalled that this appointment was postponed from the October 2nd meeting to afford the members the opportunity to review the two finalists' qualifications and recommendations as well as the citizen-feedback from the final interviews that were held in public on September 27th. Since the members had completed their review, Mr. Nason, at the nearly (4 of 5) unanimous recommendation of the *ad hoc* Advisory Committee, appointed, subject to the Select Board members approval, Gail Rothwell to succeed Council on Aging Director Norma Maroney, who is retiring on October 31st after more than 33 years of service to the community.

The *ad hoc* Advisory Committee was composed of the following five local residents, who have insight into the needs of our senior citizens:

Steve Cozzaglio, a member of the Lee Council on Aging Board
Mary Washburn, a member of the Elder Services of Berkshire County Board
Tom Unsworth, a member of the Lee Housing Authority Board
Marilyn Kelly, a member of the Hyde Place Board
Rita Fontana, a resident of Crossway Village

The Chair stated that she wanted the following read into the minutes before a vote is taken:

"I would like to explain that my vote has nothing to do with the candidate that was recommended to us by the town administrator other (than) the fact that there was another qualified candidate from within our town of Lee. It is my personal belief that as a Town and as an employer in our town, we have a moral responsibility to our citizens/taxpayers, to represent their best interests in making decisions, and to support those same people who pay our salaries, and those of the employees of the Town of Lee, including school employees, when and if (an) opportunity presents itself. In this particular case, I believe it did, and my vote reflects that belief. The other night I awoke in the middle of the night to hear a radio ad claiming "hire locally" and I thought, here we are expecting Big Y, the outlets and other businesses that come into our town to employ our residents, and we ourselves can't do it.

More importantly, maybe we should have some type of hiring policy (outside that of the town administrators, sort of a guideline) that reflects our thinking. We are

the body that is supposed to make policy after all.

But that is for another day.

And finally, I want to reiterate that had I known that three of the members of the committee had prior and current employment/social contact with the recommended applicant, I probably would have suggested we look for some other people who had no such familiarity."

Mr. Nason responded that when appointing Municipal employees he always extends preference to local candidates by insuring that they are offered an interview whether or not their applications/resumes indicate that they are qualified for the position they have applied for; and, by appointing local residents when they are equally qualified with non-resident finalists.

Mr. Consolati responded to this conversation by voicing his concerns that, although he knows Pat personally and thinks very highly of her, she was not qualified to help people in the insurance aspect of the job and Gail has significant background in that area. To which Patty Carlino responded that perhaps the job description for the Council on Aging Director should be changed to reflect that aspect of the job.

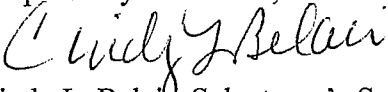
Mr. Bailey commented that having a hiring committee works in that if one person outshines the other with a 4-1 vote, the Board should go with the recommendation.

Upon a vote of the Board, two supported the appointment and one was opposed.

Ms. Carlino suggested that Bob set up a meeting for a face to face with Gail, to which Bob responded that he thought that was a good idea and he would arrange a meeting.

2. **Police Interceptor Utility Vehicle Purchase:** - Recalling that he had stated at the October 2nd meeting that the Town had saved a couple thousand dollars by bidding the purchase of the new police vehicle rather than procuring it through the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission (MAPC) Cooperative Purchasing Agreement, Mr. Nason reported that he had failed to factor the value of the police vehicle is to be traded to the low bidder. Considering that trade-in value, both procurement methods resulted in about the same price. Considering the administrative expense, the MCAD Cooperative Purchasing Agreement offers the better value.
3. **Motion to Adjourn:** *The members voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 PM.*

Respectfully submitted,



Cindy L. Belair, Selectmen's Secretary

Notice of Website Posting Sent to:

Board of Selectmen
Town Administrator
Town Clerk
Town Collector
Planning Board

Board of Assessors
Board of Health
Conservation Commission
Police Chief
Building Inspector

Dept. of Public Works
Town Treasurer
Town Reps. District Chairmen
Superintendent of Schools
Town Accountant