

BOARD OF FINANCE

**Special Meeting Minutes
Lower Level Conference Room**

**February 27, 2020
6:50 PM**

**Minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting*

Members Present (a quorum of 4 members is required to conduct business):

Mike Makuch - Chairman
Geoff Prusak – Vice Chairman
Peter Tanaka - Secretary
Stephanie Summers
Christina Mailhos
Mike Perry - Alternate

Members Absent:

Also Present:

First Selectwoman Erika Wiecewski
Elisabeth Woolf
Matthew Clark
Members of the Public

Chairman Mike Makuch called the meeting to order at 6:50pm.

SEATING OF ALTERNATES

Geoff Prusak made a motion to seat Mike Perry for Barry Wallett.

Stef Summers seconded the motion.

Vote: 5 Yes (M. Makuch, G. Prusak, P. Tanaka, S. Summers, C. Mailhos), 0 No

NEW BUSINESS

1) Appointment of Alternate to Replace Christina Mailhos

Chairman Makuch informed the Board that Christina completed all the appropriate processes with the town clerk; resigning her position as an alternate and swearing in for the full position so she is officially now seated on the Board.

Chairman Makuch stated that he received a recommendation from the Democratic Town Committee (DTC) and interest from Lisa Woolf and invited her to speak.

Elisabeth Woolf, or Lisa, summarized that she has prior experience on the Board of Finance as an alternate and full seat for 8 years total. It would be an honor and she would be happy to serve.

Peter Tanaka inquired if there is a standard on replacing alternates along party rules. Clarification was made that both alternates can't be from the same party.

Stef Summers made a motion to accept the nomination from the Democratic Town Committee of Elisabeth Woolf for the vacant alternate seat.

Christina Mailhos seconded the motion.

Vote: 3 Yes (M. Makuch, S. Summers, C. Mailhos), 1 No (G. Prusak), 2 Abstain (M. Perry, P. Tanaka)

Chairman Makuch welcomed Elisabeth Woolf to the Board and directed her to see the Town Clerk for swearing-in.

2) Resignation of Barry Wallett

Chairman Makuch referenced the e-mail that was sent to the Board and stated that Barry also completed the process of resigning his seat.

3) Appointment of a Replacement for Barry Wallett

Chairman Makuch stated that there is interest expressed from 2 people. The Republican Town Committee (RTC), whose letter was provided to the Board, put forward Matthew Clark. Additionally, Barry asked in his resignation that John Patton be considered as well. Chairman Makuch invited the interested parties to speak.

Matthew Clark stated that he has been a member of the RTC for 2 years. He has an MBA, is a responsible human adult, he has not been involved in politics in Willington at all, which is good or bad depending on your perspective. He looks forward to participating and has some ideas on school plans and more. He asks for a vote as a Republican replacement for what he believes was a Republican member. Clarification was made that Barry was elected as a Sentinel.

John Patton stated that he has been involved in politics for over 30 years with multiple roles on the Board of Finance, CIP committee, and as a Selectman for 8 years. He is somewhat familiar with municipal finance. The Board of Finance is one of the first boards he was on when he started and is a passion of his.

Mike Perry stated that he would like to express interest in the position as well. He is an elected official to the Board of Finance which speaks for itself because he ran and won in the election. He feels it's the proper thing to do.

Chairman Makuch stated that he believes the most efficient and legitimate way to handle having 3 interested parties is to fill out a paper ballot. Discussion was held on the legitimacy of the paper ballot. Clarification was made that the votes would not be secret and that names of voting members would be identified, but the paper ballots allowed for more organization of the votes.

**Stef Summers made a motion to move to paper ballot.
Peter Tanaka seconded the motion.**

**Peter Tanaka nominated Mike Perry to the open seat on the Board of Finance.
Christina Mailhos seconded the nomination.**

**Geoff Prusak nominated John Patton to the open seat on the Board of Finance.
Peter Tanaka seconded the nomination.**

**Peter Tanaka nominated Matthew Clark to the open seat on the Board of Finance.
Mike Perry seconded the nomination.**

Christina Mailhos inquired whether anyone from the RTC was present to speak further on their nomination. Stef Summers inquired whether the RTC voted to nominate Matthew Clark, rather than the nomination coming from one person. Clarification was provided that they did vote on the nomination, but no-one was present to speak further.

Bob Jellen asked for permission to speak, which was granted. He expressed the opinion that rather than get into partisan issues, he thinks the most judicious thing to do is to take a public vote rather than a paper ballot. When he has experienced issues like this on other committees over the years, he was advised by state central that rare instances call for paper ballot. He is not cautioning the Board, just advising that an oral vote should be taken as well.

Chairman Makuch acknowledged the concern but stated that he researched in advance and believes a paper ballot is appropriate, does not create any procedural dilemma, and creates a paper record to be sealed in an envelope and filed.

Vote:

	John Patton	Matthew Clark	Mike Perry	Abstention
Mike Makuch		X		
Geoff Prusak	X			
Peter Tanaka		X		
Stef Summers		X		
Christina Mailhos			X	
Mike Perry			X	

The ballots were made available for view on the table.

Chairman Makuch extended welcome to Matthew Clark and directed him to follow up with the Town Clerk. He thanked everyone for their interest and patience.

OLD BUSINESS

1) Resignation as Alternate

Already referenced above, Christina completed that process. Geoff Prusak noted that the process for resigning and being sworn in to the full seat keeps everything clean and establishes a term for the replacement. The Board agreed.

CORRESPONDENCE

Referenced above,

- 1) Phone call and e-mail from DTC
- 2) Email from Barry Wallett
- 3) Letter from RTC

GOOD & WELFARE

No Good & Welfare.

Peter Tanaka made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm.

Geoff Prusak seconded the motion.

Vote: 6 Yes (M. Makuch, G. Prusak, P. Tanaka, S. Summers, C. Mailhos, M. Perry), 0 No.

Respectfully submitted,

Marysa Semprebon

Recording Secretary