



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MINUTES
REMOTE MEETING**

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021

Members Present: Richard W. Brewer, Chair
Shana M. Shufelt, Vice Chair
Ann E. Boxler, Clerk
Steven J. Ouellette
Brian T. Valcourt.

Also Present: Timothy King, Town Administrator

Select Board Chair, Mr. Brewer, called the remote meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: The meeting commenced with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chair's Announcement – Under MGL Chapter 30A, section 20(f) – Meeting being recorded.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Westport Board of Selectmen is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. The public was invited to join the meeting through the links provided at the time of posting.

1. Appointments and Resignations

- a. Request appointment of Lindsay Cordeiro as the Principal Clerk for the Tax Collector's office. Mr. King noted that there were 50 applications received; seven semifinalists were chosen, and four candidates were asked to interview. One candidate declined, leaving three finalists to be interviewed. As a result of those interviews, he recommended Ms. Cordeiro be appointed to the position. Tax Collector Susan Brayton concurred with the recommendation, and indicated she was anxious to get the position filled.

Motion by Mr. Ouellette to appoint Lindsay Cordeiro as Principal Clerk for the Tax Collector's Office. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. No vote, discussion of March 8 as effective date of appointment.

Motion by Mr. Ouellette to appoint Lindsay Cordeiro as Principal Clerk for the Tax Collector's Office, with a start date of Monday, March 8, 2021. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The vote was 5-0 in favor by roll call. Roll Call Vote: Boxler, Aye. Ouellette, Aye. Shufelt, Aye. Valcourt, Aye. Brewer, Aye.

- b. Request to extend a conditional offer of employment as full-time Police Officer to Jean Lopez with 100% non-retroactive pay. Chief Keith Pelletier indicated he is recommending Mr. Lopez for the existing vacancy in the department, noting his seven years of service as a full-time officer with the New Bedford Police Department, and previous service as a reserve officer with the Westport Police Department. In consideration of the candidate's experience, he urged the board to consider the hiring as a lateral transfer, and offer Mr. Lopez 100 percent non-retroactive pay instead of the 90 percent pay rate traditionally offered new officers. The appointment would be subject to a successful background check, and any necessary screening and training procedures.

Mr. King indicated that the police union has voted to support the change in policy for lateral transfer hires, and agreed to include those terms in the next negotiated contract. Mr. Ouellette asked that the union send the board an e-mail or written confirmation of the approval vote. Mr. Brewer noted that the change in starting pay may be appropriate, but all benefits and seniority rights would not be impacted by the hiring agreement; he suggested the change in potential permanent change in hiring policy should be posted for public discussion at a later date.

Motion by Mr. Ouellette to appoint Mr. Lopez as a full-time police officer at the 100 percent non-retroactive pay rate. Seconded by Ms. Boxler. The vote was 5-0 in favor by roll call. Roll Call Vote: Boxler, Aye. Ouellette, Aye. Shufelt, Aye. Valcourt, Aye. Brewer, Aye.

2. **Topics not reasonably anticipated forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the meeting.** None.

Adjournment

Motion by Mr. Ouellette to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Valcourt. The vote was 5-0 in favor by roll call. Roll Call Vote: Boxler, Aye. Ouellette, Aye. Shufelt, Aye. Valcourt, Aye. Brewer, Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Barboza

Robert Barboza/Recording Clerk

APPROVED:



Ann E. Boxler, Clerk, Select Board Member