

SELECTMEN'S MEETING – THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2023

4:00 PM – WORKSHOP – To discuss with the Town Clerk on-going continuity of services in the Town Clerk's office.

Present: Chairman John MacLeod, Selectmen Kathy Chase, Scott DeFelice and Bob Foley, Town Manager Mike Pardue and Volunteer and Events Coordinator Rebekah Kelley

Also present: Town Clerk Brenda Layman, and retired Wells Town Clerk Jessica Keyes

Excused: Kathy Chase and Tim Roche

The Board and those in attendance heard discussion regarding how best to ensure an uninterrupted continuity of service in the Town Clerk's office given the announcement by Town Clerk Layman of her intent to retire immediately following the June 2023 Town Meeting.

Brenda Layman and retired Wells Town Clerk Jessica Keyes both spoke of the complexities of the Town Clerk position and the skill set required to be successful in said role. They added that they know of no one residing in Wells that has an interest in seeking the Town Clerk position, nor anyone with the needed skill set to ensure a smooth transition.

Much discussion centered around the challenges that come with major elections. They cited the massive amount of work that comes with both gubernatorial and presidential elections. They continued by addressing questions regarding the day-to-day activities of the Town Clerk's Office.

Selectman MacLeod asked Town Manager Pardue about how he sees the Town Manager interacting with an appointed Town Clerk. Pardue explained that the Town Clerk, in his opinion, whether elected or appointed, is an integral part of the team that commits to provide quality service to the public. Pardue explained that the Town Manager has no involvement in elections, referring to the fact that election processes are typically prescribed by state statute. Pardue also spoke of how he sees the Town Manager and the Town Clerk as a team, working together to meet the needs of the office, to include legal resources and more.

Brenda Layman and Jessica Keyes both stated that in their opinion, the position of Town Clerk should now move to that of an appointed position, ensuring the Town hires someone with the skills and background required to serve the office and the citizens appropriately.

The Board discussed the need to schedule a public hearing on this topic.

The Board thanked Ms. Layman and Ms. Keyes for bringing forth their recommendation that the Town Clerk position move to an appointed role, recognizing their passion for wanting the position to be filled by someone with the required skills, knowledge, and abilities.

The Board then took a brief recess as they waited for 5:00pm to start the next portion of the agenda.

Selectman Kathy Chase joined the meeting at 5:00PM

5:00 PM – SELECTMEN’S MEETING

1. Discussion and action on a request from Wells Emergency Medical Services to utilize a portion of funds previously approved by the Select Board for the purchase of an ambulance, be used for the purchase of a Stryker Power Load system.

The Board had discussion on a request from Wells Emergency Medical Services to utilize a portion of funds previously approved by the Select Board for the purchase of an ambulance, to be used for the purchase of a Stryker Power Load system.

Motion by Ms. Chase, seconded by Mr. DeFelice to authorize WEMS to utilize \$32,260.59 of funds previously approved by the Select Board for an ambulance, to be used for the purchase of a Stryker Power Load system. Passed Unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Chase, seconded by Mr. DeFelice to schedule a public hearing on February 7, 2023, to discuss changing the current Town Clerk position from elected to appointed. Passed unanimously.

The Board moved next to the interview of several citizens seeking appointment / reappointment to a variety of boards and committees that serve the Town of Wells.

2. **WORKSHOP** – Interviews for Various Boards and Committees

3. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - To discuss the applicants to various boards and committees, pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A).

Motion by Ms. Chase, seconded by Mr. DeFelice to go into Executive Session to discuss the applicants to various boards and committees, pursuant to 1 M.R.S. § 405(6)(A). Passed unanimously.

Motion by Ms. Chase, seconded by Mr. DeFelice to come out of Executive Session. Passed unanimously.

4. Appointment of members to various boards & committees.

Motion by Ms. Chase, seconded by Mr. DeFelice to appoint the following applicants:

- Joshua Lagasse as an alternate member to the Planning Board
- Paul Baratta as an alternate member to the Planning Board
- Anthony Tourigny as a regular member to the Recreation Commission
- Timothy Wheeler to the WEMS Board of Directors
- Donald Gonynor to the WEMS Board of Directors
- Caleb Chase to the WEMS Board of Directors
- Michael Beausoleil as an alternate member to the Lodging Advisory Committee
- Eric Sprague as an alternate member to the Harbor Advisory Committee
- Linda Grenfell to the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee
- Martin Takessian as an alternate member to the Energy Advisory Committee

- Adam Bloom-Paicopolos as an alternate member to the Budget Review Committee

5. Adjournment

Motion by Ms. Chase, seconded by Mr. DeFelice to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Accepted by,



The image shows three handwritten signatures in blue ink on a set of four horizontal lines. The top signature is the most prominent and appears to be 'Kathleen Wilse'. The middle signature is less legible but seems to be 'Robert Salvy'. The bottom signature is also less legible but appears to be 'Robert Salvy'.

Michael W. Pardue,
Town Manager