



Personnel Action Committee

Minutes for 01/18/18

Starting Time: 6:05 p.m.

Committee Members – Ralph Figy (present), William Onyski (present), Cindy Harris, Chair (present)

The Law Dept. has requested that this Committee ask if anyone is recording, audio or video, or live streaming this meeting, if so, please state your name – none.

Agenda Item #1

The reappointment of Cindy Gaylord, 25 Butternut Road, as a member of the Historical Commission for Ward 5, for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2020.

Voted 3-0 to recommend that reappointment.

Discussion:

Ms. Gaylord is Chair of this Commission and is passionate about preserving, restoring and promoting the education of Westfield's history. Some of the very important projects this Commission is involved in, and she would like to continue pursuing, are the ongoing restoration of the Old Burying Ground, creating historic walking tours of downtown, creation of the app "Whipping Around Westfield" for Westfield visitors, preserving historic documents, supporting the restoration of historic Westfield buildings, restoring the one-room school house and coordinating the Historic Old Burying Ground Ghost Tours. Extremely important also is answering questions on family histories and ancestry research. She is also looking forward to being the Chair of the Historic Sub-committee for Westfield's 350th celebration.

Our City and our citizens are extremely fortunate to have Ms. Gaylord on this Commission. She is the epitome of excellence and dedication.

Agenda Item #2

The reappointment of Michael Tirrell, 36 Darby Drive, as a member of the Park and Recreation Commission for Ward 5, for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2021.

Voted 3-0 to recommend that reappointment.

Discussion:

As Mr. Tirrel was recently appointed one year ago to finish the term of Mr. Martin Nunez, this is to reappoint him to full term. A quick review of his background – he is employed by NBC Universal as Director of Data Services, has coached various Westfield sports teams over the past 9 years so is familiar with the City's parks and gives insight to the Commission on the use and

maintenance of Westfield's facilities, has served on the Westfield School Committee, served as the Website Administrator and Board member for Westfield Little League. When first appointed Councilor Onyski stated he is a great guy for this position and Councilor Figy stated he is glad to see Mr. Tirrell back in public service. And they stand by those comments.

Agenda Item #3

The appointment of Meagan Laramée, 49 Brookline Avenue as a member of the Park and Recreation Commission for Ward 2, for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2021, replacing Adam Rivera, resigned.

Voted 3-0 to recommend that appointment.

Discussion:

She moved to Westfield about 3 years ago and wants to be more involved in public service, "due her part." She is very involved with taking care of "the greenery" of the city, starting with her yard where she actively and constantly gardens (of which her neighbors take notice and replicate her artistry). This leads directly into her love of Parks, of which her passion will be an asset to this Commission.

As Financial Services Manager she has been responsible for managing staff while overseeing day to day operational tasks, lending practices, involved in underwriting, and compliance laws and procedures. She is a big supporter of those who serve our Country. Mr. Billups has advised Ms. Laramée of the responsibilities and meeting procedures.

Agenda Item #4

The appointment of John Bowen, 38 Pinehurst Street as a member of the Planning Board from the Alternate member to the full-time member for a term to expire the first Monday of February, 2020, replacing Carl Vincent.

Vote 3-0 to recommend that appointment.

Discussion:

As Mr. Bowen was recently appointed in July 2017 as an Alternate, he has now the experience and this is the natural progression of process to become full-time member of this extremely important Board. He has become a valuable member and is well-respected.

A few months ago he was approved by the Personnel Action Committee and the full Council and nothing in his background as described then has changed. He has a well-balanced background in management, business and social skills which are an asset to this Board.

Councilor Beltrandi stated at that time that Mr. Bowen appears to be a good appointment and Councilor Babinski stated she was happy that he will follow rules and regulations and noted he resides in Ward 1.

Councilor Figy states he does more than this and is very involved in other areas of government.

Agenda Item #5

The appointment of Peter Cowles Jr., 18 Egleston Road, as the Media Systems Specialist position for a one year term from the date of appointment.

Voted 3-0 to recommend that appointment.

Discussion:

Mr. Cowles is employed by the City of Westfield as an IT Communications Specialist at Westfield Technology Center. Since 12/2011 he has had responsibilities such as the communications systems inclusive of Radios, Computers, Video, Voice over IP—maintaining the City's Radio system including the Public Safety's Radio System, the City's phone system voice over IP, the City's Public Broadcast station for live broadcasts of Key City functions such as Council meetings and School Committee meetings, coordinates the radio broadcasts for City Officials at the University, supports the City's video surveillance system utilized in schools and public areas throughout the City.

He also was employed prior to this as the Emergency Telecommunications Dispatcher "911" and Technology Associate from 3/1999 until 12/2011 for the Westfield Police Department, and before that was a dispatcher with the Holyoke Police Department and also was employed by WGGB (ABC 40) in Springfield for 6 years.

He belongs to the Association of Professional Communications Committee (APCO) working for public safety IT security including 911 enhancement, and also belongs to Western Mass. Radio Interoperability Committee (WMRIC) which addresses the needs within the Commonwealth and FEMA.

Lastly, Mr. Cowles is the Executive Producer, Softball World Series, responsible for streaming over 250 games for the 2017 Softball World Series, and member of the Westfield planning committee for hosting 2016 Babe Ruth Baseball World Series—the IT head for all aspects of public broadcasts during the 2016 Westfield World Series, including setup of all broadcasts of all games.

Westfield's Personnel Director Sakiewicz states nine applications were received for this position, 3 were selected for interviews by a panel consisting of our Personnel Director, School Superintendent Czaporowski, University representative Mark St. Jean and Mayor Sullivan who all agreed Mr. Cowles was the best choice for Westfield.

Councilor Onyski states his expertise in this field is admirable.

Councilor Figy states he took care of hot spots and was recognized for his work on the Softball World Series.

The minutes for the meeting of 01/18/18 were approved on a 3-0 vote on 01/18/18.

Meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Submitted by Cindy Harris, Chair 01/20/18.

