

SPECIAL
MEETING OF CITY COUNCIL
WESTFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
OCTOBER 25, 2018

The meeting was called to order in the City Council Chamber, Municipal Building, 59 Court Street, Westfield, MA at 6:00 PM by President Beltrandi.

The City Clerk called the roll. Councilor Allie was absent.

President Beltrandi read the Call of the Special Meeting as follows:

To accept the Treasurer's resignation and authorize the process to find a replacement.

At this point Councilor Allie arrived at the meeting.

Councilor Harris offered a motion, which was duly seconded, to accept the resignation of Meghan Kane, Treasurer/Collector, and authorize the creation of a screening committee to screen applicants to be recommended to the council and that the Committee include Personnel, Law, Audit an outside professional and one member of council, if desired. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that there is no reason to have Law involved and that he would like to see several Councilors on the screening committee. He also informed the Council that he would like to talk about what the goals of the committee would be. Councilor Harris informed the Council that this is the recommendation from the Law. Councilor Flaherty again questioned why the Law Department should be part of the screening committee. Councilor Bean informed the Council that Sue Phillips, City Solicitor, was part of the screening committee the last time when a Treasurer was appointed and that he's fine with Sue, not Law, being part of this committee. Councilor Paul informed the Council that there is no reason for Law to be absent. Councilor Babinski informed the Council that it would be good to have Law there if a legal question comes up. Councilor Bean informed the Council that there was a time when Law was barely dragged into processes and now they are always brought in. Councilor Flaherty agreed that Law should be there only when there is a question and that it is more appropriate to have more financially experienced people on the screening committee. Councilor Paul asked for clarity of the original motion. Councilor Harris read the motion again as follows: to accept the resignation of Meghan Kane, Treasurer/Collector and authorize the creation of a screening committee to screen applicants to be recommended to the council and that the Committee include Personnel, Law, Audit, an outside professional and one member of council, if desired. Councilor Flaherty offered a motion to amend the original motion, which was duly

seconded, to have the screening committee consist of the Personnel, Auditor, past and present City Treasurers, a member of the Finance Committee, and a member of the Long Range Financial Committee. Councilor Surprise agreed with Councilor Flaherty to include Finance Committee and Long Range Financial Committee. Councilor Figy offered a motion to amend the amendment, which was duly seconded, to add the Chair of Personnel Action Committee to the screening committee. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that the Personnel Action Committee will get the applications from the screening committee. Councilor Flaherty agreed with Councilor Babinski's recommendation to have Law present only to answer a legal question. Councilor Paul agreed that it makes sense for Law to be present to answer questions and not be there to vote on the screening of the applicants. Councilor Surprise questioned what the process of the screening would be and what information would be on the application and Councilor Surprise informed the Council that he would like an exit interview with the current Treasurer/Collector Meghan Kane asking her why she is leaving, what she liked and didn't like about the job and what things she would like to see changed. Councilor Bean reiterated that Sue Phillips, not Law, was part of the screening committee last time. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that he wants to make sure the Councilors will have all the right candidates. Councilor Onyski informed the Council that the Councilors will have the choice whether to accept the candidate and does not want to change the original motion and that the Councilors can make suggestions on what to look for in a candidate and is not sure about putting Councilors on the screening committee. Councilor Flaherty questioned Councilor Onyski if he expects that every candidate come before the Council. Councilor Onyski informed the Council that he does not expect to have every candidate before the Council that the screening committee will put the names of the candidates forward. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council with that process it takes the authority away from the Council if they are not part of the screening committee. Councilor Flaherty again offered a motion to amend the original motion as follows: that the screening committee consist of the Personnel Director, Auditor, past City Treasurers, a member of the Finance Committee, and a member of the Long Range Financial Committee and Chair of the Personnel Action Committee and that Law's role will be for advise only on questions when asked. Councilor Morganelli concurred with Councilor Flaherty's motion to amend and agreed it's important to have Councilors on the screening committee. Councilor Harris informed the Council that she supports the original motion as the Law Department suggested to avoid any obstacles or legal action against the Council and does not agree with any of the amendments. Councilor Flaherty informed the Council that that's the reason he does not want Law on the Committee because there are some Councilors that do exactly what Law says to do. Councilor Figy informed the Council that the screening committee is being underestimated if it's thought that they will be forced to vote with Law and disagreed with Councilor Flaherty. Councilor Emmershy informed the Council that if the screening committee consists of Personnel, Audit, a member of Long Range Financial, a member of Finance Committee, a PAC member and present and past Treasurers it would be a committee of seven then it makes sense that Law does not

have a vote and has an advisory role only. Councilor Surprise agreed that a member of Finance and a member of Long Range Financial be on the screening committee because there will be specific questions of Councilors relative to the finances of the City. Councilor Figy informed the Council that the number of screening committee members, with the amendment, could be eight or it could be seven, it depends if both past Treasurers want to be on the screening committee. Councilor Morganelli informed the Council he would like to see the screening committee consist of either seven or nine members.

Upon motion of Councilor Flaherty, it was VOTED: That the resignation of Meghan Kane, Treasurer/Collector be accepted and authorize the creation of a screening committee to screen applicants to be recommended to the council and that the Committee include a member of the Personnel Department, a member of the Audit Department, the present and/or past Treasurers, if available, a member of Finance Committee, a member of Long Range Financial Committee and member of the Personnel Action Committee and member of the Law Department for advise only.

The vote on the foregoing was as follows:

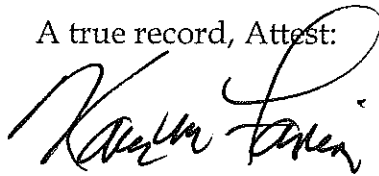
Mary Ann Babinski	Yes
Brent Bean II	No
John Beltrandi III	No
Michael Burns	No
Matt Emmershy	Yes
Ralph Figy	No
Dave Flaherty	Yes
Cindy Harris	No
Nicholas Morganelli, Jr.	Yes
William Onyski	No
Robert Paul, Sr.	Yes
Andrew Surprise	Yes
Dan Allie	Yes

The President declared the motion PASSED.

Upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was VOTED: That the Council further authorize Personnel and Law to review the job description for Treasurer/Collector for compliance with all laws and for the position to be advertised and to advertise for the position in a manner to reach probable applicants forthwith.

At 6:17 PM, and upon motion of Councilor Harris, it was VOTED: To ADJOURN.

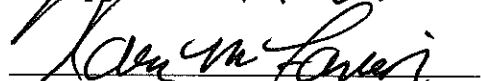
A true record, Attest:



Karen M. Fanion
City Clerk/Clerk of the Council

Presented to the Mayor


For approval Oct. 29 2018



Karen M. Fanion, City Clerk

Approved by the Mayor

Oct 29 2018



Brian P. Sullivan, Mayor