

TREASURER CANDIDATE RECOMMENDATION COMMITTEE

Draft Minutes
November 18, 2014

The Treasurer Candidate Recommendation Committee met at the Town Clerk's office on Tuesday, November 18, 2014 at 7:30 pm as warned.

PRESENT: Seth Gardner, Jane Burroughs, Ed Deegan, Terri Conti, Fred Satink, Carl Etnier, and David Grundy.

Seth Gardner called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

No Additions to the Agenda.

No Public Comment.

The committee began with the review of the job description. It was felt that this was not the job of the committee to define the duties, but rather the job of the Selectboard.

Fred Satink reported on his conversation with Vermont League of Cities and Towns attorney Garrett Baxter regarding the appointment of the assistant treasurer(s). The statute says that the treasurer may appoint an assistant, however since the Selectboard appoints the treasurer, they can advise the applicants and eventually hired Treasurer that they do not want the Treasurer to appoint an assistant and that they would prefer to select staff to perform these duties and make that appointment.

It was confirmed that Treasurer Don Welch wishes to remain as the Town Treasurer if appointed. The committee discussed the current status of the town's excellent financial status, attributing this to the current personnel and the excellent working relationship of the town office personnel. Jane Burroughs commented that based on her experience as an auditor, municipal finances are different from the for-profit and non-profit world, and it's difficult to find someone conversant with the intricacies of municipal finances. She also commented that audits of East Montpelier's finances under Don Welch's tenure as treasurer have shown that the town is in great shape.

Committee members who have direct experience working with Don Welch as treasurer are highly satisfied with both the technical quality of his work and with his chemistry in interacting with others in the office and in official positions. Those committee members who have experienced his work include one elected auditor, one CPA who has served as outside auditor for the town, the town clerk, and two members of the Selectboard. A straw poll was taken to see whether anyone on the committee thought that a formal search process would have a reasonable likelihood of finding a better candidate for the position than the current treasurer. No one answered affirmatively.

Many committee members questioned why the town would pay to advertise and go through the time and trouble of interviewing candidates when a strong candidate was already performing well in the position. Some members argued that it was important to advertise and interview to show that the committee was doing due diligence. Others said that the committee had already done due diligence, given the extent of committee members' familiarity with Don Welch's work. A member of last year's charter committee observed that the charter was consciously written to allow this committee to forward only one name in recommendation to the Selectboard, if the committee so chooses.

Motion made and second received to recommend to the Selectboard to appoint Don Welch as Town Treasurer at the end of his elected term without further process. Voice vote called followed by hand vote. Yes=5 No=2 (Seth Gardner and Dave Grundy) Motion carried.

Other business included review of the November 13, 2014 minutes. Motion made with second received to approve minutes as amended. All voted in favor-motion carried.

With no other business, motion made and second received to adjourned. All voted in favor and meeting was adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Respectfully,
Teresa E. Conti – Town Clerk