

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
JUNE 15, 2021**

In attendance were Chairman Carl F. Kowalski; Vice Chairman Daniel L. Salvucci; Clerk Brian J. Bezanson; Member Justin R. Evans; and Town Administrator Lincoln D. Heineman. Chairman Kowalski opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Chairman Kowalski asked everyone in attendance to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. This was followed by a moment of silence dedicated to Ann Trotta. Mrs. Trotta was a long-time teacher and a member of the Whitman Public Library Board of Trustees for the past 7 years. She had also previously served 1 term as a member of the Whitman Cultural Council.

Chairman Kowalski announced this is a meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the purpose is to discuss the process to fill a Whitman vacancy on the Whitman-Hanson Regional School District Committee, effective June 30, 2021. Chairman Kowalski noted the WHRSDC also posted a meeting for this evening in the event the number of committee members here constitutes a quorum.

WHRSDC members representing the Town of Whitman in attendance were Steven Bois, Dawn Byers, David Forth, Christopher Scriven and Fred Small.

Chairman Kowalski advised that he attended a Zoom meeting with Mr. Heineman, Superintendent Szymaniak and WHRSDC Chairman Chris Howard to discuss the process of filling a vacant seat. Town Counsel has also been asked for advice related to the process. To date, three people have expressed interest in the vacancy. Chairman Kowalski asked all interested parties to submit a letter of interest and a resumé to the office of the Board of Selectmen no later than June 29, 2021. He then asked that those who have already expressed interest to please follow the process. A meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the five Whitman members of the WHRSDC will be scheduled for July 6, 2021, and a vote will be taken at that meeting to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Evans asked if letters of interest and resumé's should be sent via email. Mr. Heineman asked that all letters and resumé's be sent to him directly via email. He will then forward all letters and resumé's to the Board of Selectmen and the five members of the WHRSDC on June 30, 2021.

Discussion took place with respect to the voting process. Chairman Kowalski stated that a majority vote wins. If any voting member is absent then the majority of those present will determine the winning vote. Mr. Scriven questioned the nomination process. Chairman Kowalski stated on the advice of Town Counsel, a voting member will nominate one person who has applied to fill the seat and he will ask for someone to second the nomination. If the motion fails, then another nomination can be moved, seconded and voted. This process will be followed until there is a majority vote. If there is not a majority vote, the appointing Board will not fill the vacancy.

Mr. Bezanson was unhappy with this process, stating it does not appear to be transparent and it could appear as if a “backroom” deal took place prior to the vote. He feels all names should be placed into nomination at once. Chairman Kowalski disagreed that the process will not appear transparent because the process is being discussed in an open meeting now and advice from counsel is being assessed. Mr. Scriven stated that the advice from Town Counsel does not specifically address the process and he would like to see this followed up. Mr. Salvucci felt that because interested parties will be interviewed, all names should be placed into nomination and each of the voting members can indicate who their choice is. All were in agreement that this would be the fairest process. Chairman Kowalski noted there will be no need to follow up with Town Counsel if everyone is in agreement.

Ms. Byers asked about the interview process. Chairman Kowalski suggested each voting member ask the same question of each candidate. Candidates will be interviewed one at a time and the others will be asked to wait outside the room.

Following discussion, it was agreed by all members of the Board of Selectmen and the five members of the WHRSDC representing the Town of Whitman that the process to fill a vacancy on the WHRSDC will be as follows:

- The deadline to submit a letter of interest and resumé to Mr. Heineman via email is Tuesday, June 29, 2021.
- Mr. Heineman will send all information received from interested parties to the Board of Selectmen and the five members of the WHRSDC representing the Town of Whitman on Wednesday, June 30, 2021.
- All candidates will be interviewed at the Board of Selectmen’s meeting scheduled on Tuesday, July 6, 2021.
- Following interviews, a motion will be made and seconded to place the names of all candidates into nomination and each voting member will cast their vote. The person who receives the majority number of votes will win the seat.
- If no candidate receives a majority number of votes, the person(s) with the least amount of votes will be eliminated and the voting members will cast their vote for one of the remaining candidates.

Chairman Kowalski thanked everyone for their input and asked Mr. Heineman to forward Town Counsel’s advice to all of the voting members.

At 7:37 p.m. Mr. Salvucci **MOVED** to adjourn the meeting. **Second Mr. Bezanson, so voted 4-0.**

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Brian J. Bezanson, Clerk