



**TOWN OF BILLERICA
SELECT BOARD MINUTES
AUGUST 05, 2024**

Members Present: Chair John Burrows, Vice Chair Dina Favreau, Secretary Michael Rosa, Member Kimberly Conway and Member Michael Riley (Late Arrival)

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Acting Town Manager Clancy Main, Recording Secretary Dawn McDowell

Call to Order 5:00 PM

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Chair Burrows called the meeting to order and stated that the meeting is via Zoom. All votes will be taken by roll call.

A roll call for attendance: Vice Chair Favreau was Present, Secretary Rosa was Present, Member Conway was Present, and Chair Burrows was Present.

1. Open Microphone

Carole Reardon of 18 Pinedale Ave – Ms. Reardon encouraged the Select Board to appoint members of the Select Board. This keeps the balance between elected and appointed officials. The Select Board is the Executive Branch of Government and are the ones that work with the Town Manager the most.

Daniel Darris O'Connor – Mr. O'Connor stated that the Board has lost integrity and transparency since Dina Favreau was elected and John Burrows became Chair. Chair Burrows stated that we are not going to allow you to make disparaging remarks about members. An argument ensued and the Chair stated that Mr. O'Connor is no longer recognized. Mr. O'Connor stated that the Select Board has become rouge and Town Counsel quit. Vice Chair Favreau stated a point of order. Mr. O'Connor is out of order, and she is not going to be slandered by him. Secretary Rosa stated that our policies and procedures stated that during open microphone, residents are asked not to make personal attacks regarding members of the Board. Member Conway asked that our new legal counsel provide an opinion because she does not believe we can censor public comment.

Member Riley joined the meeting at 5:06 PM.

Grace Tucci – Precinct 9 Member – Ms. Tucci stated that she would ask that the people who are selected have not already served on this type of committee in the past, others should get a chance.

John LaFauci – Mr. LaFauci stated that whoever gets picked, they shouldn't be from the same address.

2. Discussion and Vote on the Select Board Appointees (2) to the Town Manager's Screening Committee per the General Bylaws Section 20.4

Member Conway stated that she believes that we should appoint residents to this committee. We, the Select Board, have the final say and appoint the Town Manager. She is concerned because we are not going to entertain appointing residents, and we cut off people we don't agree with. Why did we advertise if we are not going to appoint residents? Chair Burrows stated that all the other Boards that appoint members could also appoint residents, but they did not. An argument ensued and the Chair stated Member Conway is no longer recognized. The Chair called for order. Member Conway was then recognized by the Chair. Member Conway stated that the Select Board have not put members on this Board in the past. We are the final decision makers, and she strongly encourages that we be above board and transparent and when the time is right, she would like to be recognized so she could make a recommendation for two residents.

Vice Chair Favreau stated that it's important to read the bylaw, then discuss who should be appointed. Vice Chair Favreau stated that everyone on the Select Board is a resident.

Chair Burrows read the General Bylaw, Section 20.4.



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Vice Chair Favreau stated that the Bylaw says shall, which means it is required. The appointments “may” not need to be members of the agency. We get to choose who is appointed as all the other Boards do and it should be members of this Board. We, the Select Board, deal with the Town Manager on a constant basis.

Member Riley stated that he is not here to debate the bylaw, but he agrees with Member Conway, and it doesn’t make sense to appoint Board members. We make the ultimate decision. He would be honored to put up two names of outstanding citizens, retired Police Chief Paul Mathews and Doug Meagher.

Secretary Rosa stated that he values the appointment of residents to committees, but no one understands the interaction between the Select Board and the Town Manager better than we do. A sense of compatibility with a candidate is so important, knowledge of the Charter and Bylaw, which is so important for this committee. There are questions that need to be asked during the interview process that we should be involved in. We don’t want to miss a good candidate because we weren’t involved at the starting point.

Chair Burrows stated that the committee narrows down the prospect pool and he thinks that the Select Board has the experience to be in this group. He respects everyone’s opinion but it’s similar to the School Superintendent search, why were their School Committee members involved, because they are the ones that know that position the best. The Planning Board made their appointments in June. There is no conspiracy, they were just preparing.

Member Conway asked Secretary Rosa why he never voted for Select Board members to be on the committee in the past. Secretary Rosa stated that he feels different this time. We have a tight timeline, and we are going to be competing with other neighboring towns, and we need to move fast and make sure we have candidates that will be the best for Billerica. There was no list of applicants that applied, and we all had people reaching out to us. Member Conway stated that the Select Board will make the ultimate decision, and the Bylaw will exclude some applicants.

MOTION - Secretary Rosa made a motion to appoint Dina Favreau as a Select Board representative to the Town Manager’s Screening Committee. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Favreau. After discussion, the vote was 3-2-0. On a roll call vote: Secretary Rosa voted Aye, Vice Chair Favreau voted Aye, Member Conway voted No, Member Riley voted No, and Chair Burrows voted Aye. The motion passed.

Member Conway stated that for a Point of Order, she had asked to put names up for nominations.

Member Riley stated that the Select Board has the final say and we would like to vote on the names he presented.

Chair Burrows stated that he has not received any applications or emails.

MOTION - Member Riley made a motion to appoint retired Deputy Police Chief Paul Mathews as a Select Board representative to the Town Manager’s Screening Committee. The motion was seconded by Member Conway and voted 2-3-0. On a roll call vote: Secretary Rosa voted No, Vice Chair Favreau voted No, Member Conway voted Aye, Member Riley voted Aye and Chair Burrows voted No. The motion failed.

MOTION - Vice Chair Favreau made a motion to appoint Michael Rosa as a Select Board representative to the Town Manager’s Screening Committee. The motion was seconded by Secretary Rosa and voted 3-2-0. On a roll call vote: Secretary Rosa voted Aye, Vice Chair Favreau voted Aye, Member Conway voted No, Member Riley voted No, and Chair Burrows voted Aye. The motion passed.

MOTION - Secretary Rosa made a motion to adjourn the meeting of August 05, 2024 at 5:40 PM. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Favreau and unanimously voted 5-0-0. On a roll call vote: Secretary Rosa voted Aye, Vice Chair Favreau voted Aye, Member Conway voted Aye, Member Riley voted Aye and Chair Burrows voted Aye.

*Respectfully Submitted by Dawn McDowell,
Recording Secretary*



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Exhibits for the Select Board Meeting – August 5, 2024

Call to order 5:00 PM

1. Open Microphone – No Exhibits

New Business

2. Discussion and Vote on the Select Board Appointees (2) to the Town Manager's Screening Committee per the General Bylaws Section 20.4 – General Bylaws Section 20.4, Lowell Sun Posting dated 07/30/24, Excel Spreadsheet - Makeup of Former Screening Committees

Approved On: October 21, 2024