

A Regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Tuesday, January 13, 2011 in the Council on Aging Room beginning at 6:30 p.m. Mrs. Mackenzie was absent. The following members were present.

Eric Kraus, Vice Chairman
Michael Berry, Clerk
Clifton Snuffer
Christopher Timson

Mr. Kraus called the meeting to order.

Emergency Declaration

Mr. Boynton asked the Board to vote to affirm the emergency declaration for the snowstorm from 7 a.m. yesterday to noon today.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to affirm the Emergency Declaration as requested, from 7 a.m. January 12, 2011 to noontime January 13, 2011, seconded by Mr. Snuffer, VOTED 3-0-0

Mr. Boynton updated the Board that there is a light crew in tonight sanding some areas. Sidewalks need to be done. We have four machines, but we use only two. We will go out with snow blowers and clean what we can.

Interviews for Animal Control

The Board is conducting interviews for Animal Control. The candidates for the position are Sean Paul Ford-Withrow, Susan Banner and John Murray. Each candidate had been interviewed by the Asst. Town Administrator and the Acting Animal Control officer.

Sean Paul Ford-Withrow

Mr. Withrow is currently working for the animal rescue league in Dedham. He explained he is responsible for everything, out in the field, law enforcement calls, in the shelter, vaccination of animals. Behavioral issues. Their goal is to find the animals a home. He is also an animal behaviorist. He does a little of everything. He was a Boston park ranger and this involved a variety of jobs, you could be riding bicycle, boat control, enforcing the R&R for the park systems. If he were offered the job, he would resign from the current job. He loves working with animals.

He left being a park ranger because the job was not like it was when he started. It became more Boston Common foot patrol. He believes he could handle complaints people might have as Animal Control officer. He feels he has a good personality for public relations, patience, easy going, but still able to get the job done. One of my specialties is dealing with members of public who are dissatisfied. With the rangers,

you were a public figure. It was mainly public relations, had a course in verbal judo. He feels he has the ability to take someone who is screaming and eventually turn it around. He talked about someone with a dog off leash and how he would handle him. If you show them respect, they will show you.

His entire family is in law enforcement but it was not for him that is what he found in rangers. His dad retired after 42 years from the police force. He grew up in Jamaica Plain and saw many things. It almost seemed as a family tradition. He saw what it does to long time police officers and is not willing to do this for a career. It is his feeling that Animal control is separate and animals are his passion.

Susan Banner

Susan is currently a part time regional animal control officer. She worked as a full time purchasing agent and customer service. Got into the police academy for the classes they hold. She took many classes, and is certified. Worked for a distribution center in Franklin. The animal control position was on the weekends. Years ago wanted to be a vet assistant. You need to have a good handle on every situation that you have. She has been involved in investigations, situations with teenagers involving cruelty to animals. You have to be able to handle the person when someone has a problem. Need to act as a mediator. She is currently being trained and certified to carry a firearm. It was noted it would take her 45 minutes to get to Walpole for a call.

John Murray

Has lived in Walpole his entire life is a sportsman. He knows J. Spillane and has gone hunting with him on several occasions and this job is a great opportunity. He is very familiar with the town. He is looking forward to having this opportunity. He has helped the animal control officer with situation where deer have run into feces in backyard. He has no problem putting down an animal if he must. He currently operates a landscaping business.

The Board deliberated on the candidates and felt that Mr. Withrow was the more qualified candidate for the Town.

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to authorize the Town Administrator to appoint Sean Paul Ford-Withrow as the Animal Control officer, with start date and salary to made by the Town Administrator, seconded by Mr. Berry, VOTED 4-0-0

7:25 p.m. Appointment of three officers, Police interviews

The Board interviewed Patrick Moriarty, Stephen Lawrie, Luke Parlon and Ian Tolland for the three openings as police officer.

The Board had previously interviewed Patrick Moriarty when they appointed the last two officers approximately a month ago and were pleased with his interview at that time. Patrick reiterated that he loves being in law enforcement and is very excited to have another opportunity to meet with the Board.

Stephen Lawrie has served in the military for the past five years. He has a lot of patrol experience from the time he served in Germany. He served in S. Korea and Germany. Was honorably discharged and worked for Intel Corporation for three months before being laid off. He explained that he is familiar with weapons training, did a lot of training. He has high ethics and is very professional. He feels that all of his various positions have helped him toward becoming a police officer. He is very excited about the possibility of working for the town. He left the military to raise a family. When he had the chance to take the exam, he did. He is pursuing a degree for an associate.

Luke Parlon grew up in Norwood and is currently working as a Boston College police officer. He was also summer officer at Edgartown. He has always wanted to be a police officer; it is my life long dream. Really enjoy the career and working for the community. Both his father and grandfather are retired police officers. His concept of community policing is you walk into a local hardware store and people see you and think something is wrong. He would like people to approach the officers, have more of a repore with the community. At Edgartown, people get to know you, at the college you do not get to know the students as they are only there for four years. He talked about the most difficult situation he handled at Boston College.

Ian Tolland grew up in Walpole and always wanted to be an officer, his dad was a Boston police officer. He learned a lot of what police work really is. When he finished school, he worked at Federal Reserve Bank. He has had training, in Atlanta for 6 weeks which included weapons training, ethics, after that it was a smooth transition, no problems with supervisors. He feels this made me a better candidate. Community policing to him is visible, proactive, walk around meeting community. His father taught him to be fair to people, not to be prejudice and do not take the job home with you.

The Board deliberated on the candidates brought before them and voted the following.

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to appoint Luke Parlon as police officers, this is a conditional appointment subject to them passing the physical exam, physical abilities test seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 4-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to appoint Ian Tolland as the alternate candidate as a police officer this is a conditional appointment subject to them passing the physical exam, physical abilities test , academy, and the upcoming retirement , seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 4-0-0

Approved 2/9/2011

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to appoint Patrick Moriarty as police officer. This is a conditional appointment subject to them passing the physical exam, physical abilities test and the academy seconded by Mr. Timson, VOTED 4-0-0

MOTION moved by Mr. Kraus to move into Executive session to discuss strategy with respect to the purchase, lease of real property as such discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Board and return to open meeting for purposes of adjourning, Roll Call vote; Mr. Timson-Aye, Mr. Berry-Aye, Mr. Snuffer-Aye and Mr. Kraus-Aye (4-0-0)

The board returned to regular session to adjourn.

MOTION moved by Mr. Timson to adjourn at 9:55 p.m., seconded by Mr. Berry, 4-0-0

Respectfully submitted