

Meeting Minutes Committee on General Government

June 5 2023

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Meeting Recording:

Zoom meeting link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/H0wQ0lrjs05DsfkhghpLyGGuVVKZ427dFjVBTIbuMFQnba2WF-B4onNL8obDeziA.N-Tdj8z6dCSO53bH>

Members

Heather Shand, Chair

Byron Lane, Councilor Ward 6 (Zoom)

Bruce Vogel, Councilor-at-Large (Zoom)

Other Participants

Afroz Khan, At Large (Zoom)

Agenda

APPT00390 - Caitlin Haire, Board of Registrars

APPT00402 - Stephen Wallace, Waterfront Trust

APPT00406 - Murphy Hesse Toomey Lehane LLP, City Solicitor (COTW)

Meeting called to order at 5:30.

APPT00390 - Caitlin Haire, Board of Registrars

Committee hears from Caitlin Haire on her interest in being on the Board of Registrars. She spoke to her interest in being part of something that is fundamental to our democracy, the vote.

Public Commnet

Mayor Reardon speaks in favor of Ms. Haire's appointment to the board of Registrats.

Councillor Lane motions to recommend approval of Ms. Haire's appointment to the full city council, Councillor Vogel is the second. Committee votes 3-0 to recommend approval of Ms. Haire's appointment to the Board of Registrars to the full council.

APPT00402 – Stephen Wallace, Waterfront Trust

Mr. Wallace is not on the zoom call so the appointment of Mr. Wallace to the Water Front Trust remains in committee.

APPT00406 - Murphy Hesse Toomey Lehane LLP, City Solicitor (COTW)

Karis North speaks on behalf of Murphy, Hesse, Toomey Lehane LLP to be the City Solicitor for Newburyport. Attorney North speaks about the firms history and services to towns and the City of Attleboro. She speaks of the other attorney's in the firm and their ability to support, labor, general

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government, zoning and charter questions. Atty North speaks about the training the firm does with municipalities.

Cllr Khan asks questions:

- Firms communications (will they continue sending councilors updates on SLC rulings and general updates to laws) – Atty North, yes, this is part of their service.
- Do they offer trainings ? Atty North, yes, she's personally done trainings in open meeting laws
- Do you represent the mayor/city council? Atty North answered the firm would represent the city in legal matters.
- Atty North mentioned the names of specialists in the firm the council could deal with on zoning, ordinance review and other matters.
- What other municipalities do they represent? Attleboro is the only city, they do work with Beverly on labor issues. They represent many towns.

Cllr Shand asked about their efforts on STRU legislation.

- Atty North said they'd been working with all municipalities on STRU efforts.
- Atty North also acknowledged the yearly update the city receives, per the ordinance, to have an executive session to review all pending litigation the city is involved with.

Cllr Lane states he's looking forward to a fresh perspective from the city solicitor.

Public Comment

Jane Snow, 9 Coffin Street

Asks whether the firm does training sessions for open meeting laws and other topics. Atty North states they do.

Cllr Lane makes the motion to recommend to the full council, APPT 00406 Murphy Hesse Toomey Lehan LLP, City Solicitor to the full council for approval. Cllr. Vogel is the second. Committee votes 3-0 to recommend approval of Murphy Hesse Toomey Lehan LLP to the full council.

Cllr. Lanes makes the motion to adjourn, Cllr Vogel is the second. Committee adjourns 5:54.