

Wayne Town Manager Hiring /Advisory Committee

Minutes for March 11, 2024

Location: Wayne Town Office, North Wayne, Maine

Members attending: Ed Bergman, Betsey Clark, Dennis Dalheim, Theresa Kerchner, Ken Spaulding, Ford Stevenson.

Select Board Facilitators: Trent Emery, Marianne Butak

Time: 6:30 PM March 11, 2024

6:30 PM Trent Emery called the meeting to order

Recorder: Ed Bergman

Time Keeper: Ken Spaulding

1. Motion to approve minutes of February 12, 2024 meeting was deferred to next scheduled Meeting as a quorum of seven members was not obtained.
2. Trent Emery began a discussion of letter and email sent by town attorney James Katsiaficas Related to Wayne town government organization. Letter dated March 8, 2024 referred to mistake made in 1969 regarding codification of Subchapter IIA of Title 30 which had been in effect for the town of Wayne. Therefore, Mr. Katsiaficas said there is a gap in the 1979 Town Manager Plan Ordinance which requires correction. He listed two potential corrections of which he indicated in that letter that a “repeal and replace” of the current town manager plan ordinance with a new ordinance under current law. Under old 1969 plan, the town manager does not have appointment power as the selectboard retains exclusive power. Attorney Katsiaficas stated that “by repealing the current Town Manager Ordinance and replacing it with the new Town Manager Ordinance in accordance with current state law, the Town can adopt the correct distribution of duties”. I.e. “the Select Board appoints boards and commissions (Planning Board and ZBA) and The Town Manager appoints, supervises, and controls the department heads, subject to Select Board confirmation, and he/she supervises and controls the officials who otherwise are appointed by the Select Board (town clerk, tax collector, fire chief)” He also mentioned other ordinances that needed to be amended or repealed Including 1996 Treasurer Ordinance and amendment of Wayne Fire Ordinance to be consistent with any new Town Manager Ordinance. He said in the letter that the town manager would then “appoint Supervise and control Fire Chief”. Attorney Katsiaficas also indicated in email sent just a few hours before meeting that repeal and replacement of this ordinance would not be able to be accomplished before the annual town meeting held in June. A special town meeting would be required at least ninety days before June meeting. He went on to explain why in the email to Trent Emery.
3. Theresa Kerchner then gave oral report on interviews she had with the town managers of Fayette (Mark Robinson) and Eric Dyer ( Town of Readfield). Theresa shared extensive

information and suggestions given by these two town managers on the responsibilities, duties, and authority given to a town manager in their respective towns. "Respect for town employees, and the public " was given by Mark Robinson as essential for good governance in his community. Eric Dyer mentioned there were opportunities for partnerships between towns.

4. Significant time was spent in discussion regarding "a strong town manager system" as opposed to an administrative assistant or hybrid administrative system.
5. Trent Emery gave a brief report on comments made by town employees, fire chief, code enforcement officer, select person and treasurer regarding qualities needed by a future town manager.
6. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:00 PM.