

TOWN OF LANESBOROUGH SELECTMEN'S MEETING

Submitted by Diane Stevens, Town Secretary

June 14, 2016

Present: Mr. John Goerlach, Chair
Mr. Robert Ericson
Mr. Henry Sayers
Mr. Paul Sieloff, Town Manager

The meeting was opened by John Goerlach at 5:00 p.m.

Public Comment

None.

Building Inspector Interviews

Applicant - Jonathan Flagg

Mr. Sieloff introduced Jonathan Flagg to the Board. Mr. Flagg submitted a resume for the current opening at the Town's Building Inspector. Mr. Goerlach asked Mr. Flagg how long he had been a Building Inspector. Mr. Flagg stated that he worked for the City of Westfield for 8 years and has been with the Town of Blandford since March of 2016. Mr. Flagg told the Board that his Building Commissioner certification is acknowledged nationwide. Mr. Flagg stated that he graduated from high school in 1979 and has worked on and off with contractors since he graduated and at one point owned his own contracting business. He received his certification and became a local inspector in 2008. The Board asked Mr. Flagg why he left the City of Westfield and Mr. Flagg stated that he would rather work for a smaller entity and doesn't mind the travel as he lives in Westfield which is an hour away. Mr. Flagg stated that he would be called out in the middle of the night in Westfield when fires occurred for inspections and he would be willing to do that. Mr. Flagg stated that he currently has office hours in Blandford on Monday evenings for 2 ½ hours. Mr. Goerlach asked if he was familiar with on-line permitting. Mr. Sayers asked Mr. Flagg if he was familiar with permits for solar projects as many are being issued throughout the Town. Mr. Flagg stated that he has issued permits for solar panels in the past. Mr. Goerlach and Mr. Sayers asked if he was familiar with permits for signs. Mr. Goerlach gave an example of a company placing unauthorized signs throughout the Town. Mr. Flagg stated that he was involved with implementing an ordinance with the City of Westfield regarding just such an issue. Mr. Goerlach asked how many inspections he believed would be necessary for footings/foundation work. Mr. Flagg stated that it would require 2-3 inspections but 2 at a minimum. Mr. Flagg stated that he could do office hours on Wednesday from 1 p.m. – 4 p.m. to keep same schedule as retiring inspector but he is very flexible depending on what the Town needs. Mr. Sieloff asked how he would schedule inspections. Mr. Flagg stated that it depended on the situation but he would probably group them together on one day to get it all done but could come on other days if necessary. Mr. Flagg stated that his license is up to date (does not expire until the end of 2017) so he could begin work immediately. Mr. Sieloff commented on Mr. Flagg's polo shirt which had a building inspector insignia on it. Mr. Flagg stated that he always wears some type of clothing or badge to identify himself. Mr. Sayers spoke about the Berkshire Mall and asked Mr. Flagg if he could be available quickly if need be for any business that wished to establish itself within the Mall as the Town does not want to do anything to hamper any business from coming in. Mr. Flagg stated that he could be readily available and he has familiarity with commercial property through his work with Westfield. Mr. Flagg also stated that he has helped individuals and businesses with conservation and/or planning or zoning board issues. Mr. Flagg just recently completed a 1 day plan review course. Mr. Sieloff asked about his computer skills. Mr. Flagg stated that he is very familiar with Word and Excel. Mr. Goerlach stated that the individual who is hired would need to have good email communication skills as it would be beneficial for the new inspector to communicate via email with contractors for dates and times of inspections. Mr. Sieloff stated that it would also be beneficial for the new inspector to check his voicemail when not in the office and return calls when necessary. The Board thanked Mr. Flagg for coming in and stated that they will notify him of their decision soon.

Applicant - Wayne R. Reid

Mr. Sieloff introduced Mr. Reid to the Board. Mr. Reid is currently that Assistant Building Inspector with the Town and has been for approximately 2-3 years. Mr. Reid is currently an Owners Representative at Soldiers On in Leeds, Massachusetts which provides housing to formerly homeless veterans. Mr. Reid oversees the construction of condominium-like units for these veterans. Mr. Reid stated that he lives on the Pittsfield/Lanesborough line and can be available easily for inspections. Mr. Goerlach asked what time Mr. Reid could be available for office hours. Mr. Reid stated that he currently has a full time job and would have to do evening hours and inspections on nights and weekends. Mr. Reid stated that he was a building inspector in Pittsfield, Windsor and Hancock. Mr. Reid stated that he did not have office hours in Hancock as it was not necessary and he worked around the contractors' schedules. Mr. Goerlach stated that it would be necessary to have some evening hours, possibly from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mr. Reid asked if the Town was doing on-line permitting. Mr. Sieloff stated that it is currently not but has been checking into the possibility in the future. Mr. Reid stated that he does have experience with on-line permitting when he worked in Pittsfield but believes it is very cumbersome system to use as drawings are very hard to view on-line. Mr. Sieloff stated that maybe a larger monitor could be purchased which would eliminate excess paper. Mr. Reid stated that Lanesborough is a very small town and did not think it was necessary as so few permits are issued and that the average contractor does not have the computer skills to scan and upload documents. Mr. Reid stated that he could make himself available for a couple of evening hours one day a week. Mr. Sayers asked about the enforcement of the sign bylaw. Mr. Reid stated that it should be in the Zoning Bylaws but as with the State Building Codes everything is up for interpretation. Mr. Reid stated that he received his license in 1999. Mr. Sieloff asked Mr. Reid if he maintains his license. Mr. Reid stated that certain courses must be taken periodically to keep license up to date and his is current. Mr. Reid asked about the salary for the position. Mr. Sieloff stated that there is currently approximately \$15,000 budgeted for the position. Mr. Reid thanked the Board and Mr. Sieloff for taking the time to meet with him. The Board thanked Mr. Reid for coming in and stated that they will notify him of their decision soon.

Attend Annual Town Meeting

The Board and Town Manager attended the Annual Town Meeting. Please see Minutes of Annual Town Meeting for more information.

Other business which could not have been reasonably foreseen within 48 hours of the meeting.

None.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn meeting made by Henry Sayers, seconded by Robert Ericson. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

Footnotes:

[#1] Resume and Employment Application – Wayne R. Reid

[#2] Resume – Jonathan Flagg