

Town of Oak Bluffs - Select Board Special Meeting Minutes
Oak Bluffs Town Hall
Monday May 16th, 2022, 1:00pm

Present: Chair Ryan Ruley, Select Persons Jason Balboni, Gail Barmakian, Emma Green-Beach, Brian Packish

Also Present: Town Administrator Deborah Potter, Assistant Town Administrator Wendy Brough and Office Administrator Debra Alley

1:00 p.m. Meeting called to order

Chairperson Ruley recused himself from the proceedings due to his professional relationship with one of the candidates.

1:03 p.m. Arthur Beal joined the meeting.

The candidate was asked questions by the Select Person Barmakian relating to their approach to policing in Oak Bluffs, their leadership style. Candidate was asked about their view on the relationship between the Police Chief and the Town Administrator and the Chief and the Select Board. The candidate was asked about the Police Chief being visible to the public and the requirement of the Chief to wear a uniform. Candidate was asked about recruitment, and retainment of employees. Candidate was asked about their approach to budgeting, Police Reform, Contract Negotiations. How does the candidate see involvement as a Chief with the community – elderly, teens. Candidate was asked about their approach to un-permitted events in the parks and beaches in Oak Bluffs during the summer months.

1:28 p.m. Arthur Beal left the meeting.

1:57 p.m. Jonathan Searle joined the meeting.

The candidate was asked questions by the Select Person Balboni relating to their approach to policing in Oak Bluffs, their leadership style. Candidate was asked about their view on the relationship between the Police Chief and the Town Administrator and the Chief and the Select Board. The candidate was asked about the Police Chief being visible to the public and the requirement of the Chief to wear a uniform. Candidate was asked about recruitment, and retainment of employees. Candidate was asked about their approach to budgeting, Police Reform, Contract Negotiations. How does the candidate see involvement as a Chief with the community – elderly, teens. Candidate was asked about their approach to un-permitted events in the parks and beaches in Oak Bluffs during the summer months.

2:55 p.m. Jonathan Searle left the meeting.

3:21 p.m. Nicholas Curelli joined the meeting.

The candidate was asked questions by the Select Person Green-Beach relating to their approach to policing in Oak Bluffs, their leadership style. Candidate was asked about their view on the

relationship between the Police Chief and the Town Administrator and the Chief and the Select Board. The candidate was asked about the Police Chief being visible to the public and the requirement of the Chief to wear a uniform. Candidate was asked about recruitment, and retainment of employees. Candidate was asked about their approach to budgeting, Police Reform, Contract Negotiations. How does the candidate see involvement as a Chief with the community – elderly, teens. Candidate was asked about their approach to un-permitted events in the parks and beaches in Oak Bluffs during the summer months.

3:55 p.m. Nicholas Curelli interview finished.

4:03 p.m. The board started deliberation. The Town of Oak Bluffs at the special Town Meeting adopted a policy changing the position of the Police Chief from a strong Police Chief to a weak Police Chief.

Select Person Barmakian spoke of the need to have a Police Chief who is familiar with Oak Bluffs and the seasonal change in population and the challenges which go with this.

Select Person Balboni spoke of need to take time to digest and make the right decision; to not make a hasty decision.

The Select Board determined Arthur Beal was ranked third out of the candidates. The board liked Mr. Beales answers and responses. There was concern that Mr. Beal was not as familiar with Oak Bluffs and Martha's Vineyard as the other applicants are.

The Select Board discussed the second candidate Jonathan Searle, the board liked that Mr. Searle was a local candidate and had knowledge of Oak Bluffs and the challenges policing has. Select Person Balboni liked the MV Hub, and the community outreach responses Mr. Seale had. Select Person Green-Beach like his responses to wellness and approaching substance abuse as a disease, liked that he showed his empathy and compassion. Select Person Barmakian thought Mr. Searle was a strong candidate.

The Select Board discussed the third candidate Nicholas Curelli, his strength, and qualifications. Select Person Balboni spoke to the knowledge the candidate would bring to the position. Select Person Green-Beach liked Nicholas Curelli's knowledge of MASSPAC and POST and his depth of knowledge of Oak Bluffs. Select Person Barmakian discussed how Nicholas Curelli presented himself as a strong candidate and she liked the idea of promotion from within the department. Select Person Packish spoke of his concern with the structure of the police department.

Select Person Packish noted he would be in favor of appointing Jonathan Searle as chief and then working on the structure and stability within the Oak Bluffs Police Department. Select Person Balboni spoke to comparing the two candidates Searle and Curelli. When the culture needs to be changed sometimes bringing in an outside candidate works best. Select Person Green-Beach spoke to Curelli's approach to promoting diversity in the workplace, she thought having both candidates in the department would be great. -

The OBPD has lost the top three supervisory positions. Select Person Packish believes Searle will be the best candidate for the Town, the organization of the department, and the longevity of the department.

Select Person Barmakian - Curelli, Select Person Balboni - Searle, Select Person Packish - Searle, Select Person Green-Beach - Searle.

Select Person Balboni made a motion to offer Jonathan Searle the position of Oak Bluffs Police Chief, seconded by Select Person Green-Beach. (3-Aye, 1- Nay).

Chair Ruley, Select Person Packish and Deborah Potter will enter into contract negotiation with Jonathan Searle.

Adjourn 4:49 pm

Select Person Balboni made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Select Person Barmakian. (4 - Aye)

Respectfully Submitted



Debra Alley – Office Administrator

Documents Included

Questions asked of each candidate

Resumes of each candidate

Approved – Select Board Meeting June 14, 2022