

**THESE MINUTES ARE SUBJECT TO BOARD APPROVAL AT THE NEXT
BOARD OF FINANCE REGULAR MEETING**

**WESTBROOK BOARD OF FINANCE SPECIAL MEETING
TELECONFERENCE
September 16, 2020 6:00PM**

The Westbrook Board of Finance Special Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 16, 2020 via Zoom Videoconference. In attendance were Jim Dahl, Tony Cozza, Chris Ehlert, Paul Winch, Kate Gilstad-Hayden and Gary Gavigan. Also in attendance were Noel Bishop, and Kelley Frazier

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:08pm by Chair Gavigan.

Mr. Gavigan read an opening statement that he asked to be filed with the minutes.

Point of Order was recognized by the Chair. Mr. Cozza noted that Mr. Winch was duly seated and sworn in by the town clerk. The Board of Finance (BOF) are not allowed to add members.

**INTERVIEW AND POSSIBLE ACTION – CANDIDATES FOR BOARD OF FINANCE
VACANCY**

Mr. Gary Farnoli spoke about his interest in the Board and the process he followed to be on the Board of Finance. He stated that Statute 7-340A which allows a Board to add up to three alternates. This should be considered for various town Boards.

Mr. Winch who was appointed to fill the Boards vacancy at the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting on September 8, 2020. He also agrees in the concept of alternates. He has been sworn in and looks forward to being a member of the Board of Finance.

The Board members had a lengthy discussion regarding the process and previous experiences.

Mr. Paul Beaulieu discussed his credentials and desire to also be considered for the Board of Finance. He has a lengthy resume of municipal work.

Mr. Ehlert suggested a review of the process. This is unprecedented that Statute 7-107 was evoked in recent years with the past 6 vacancies on the Board. The BOF will need to discuss if they would like the process to play out as it should. The First Selectman did not have the authority to set a deadline or to have applicants sent to his office.

Mr. Cozza likes the idea of alternate members. This may have to be done through ordinance. This will be investigated.

Ms. Gilstad-Hayden noted her disappointment with the town counsel citing concerns that he did not notify the BOF when he learned of Statute 7-107 and failed to update his previous guidance to the BOF which did not include statute 7-107. She feels that the town counsel served the BOS better than the BOF in this situation, and perhaps the BOF needs separate counsel in the future.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Paul Beaulieu asked that this meeting continued as opposed to closed and resolved.

Mr. Ehlert asked that this meeting be discussed in the regular meeting following this meeting or in another special meeting to discuss Mr. Beaulieu's concerns.

The Board of Selectmen have appointed Paul Winch to be a member of the Board of Finance. Mr. Cozza voiced concern about whether the Town Attorney should be consulted about Mr. Winch's participation. If it is deemed that the actions of the BOS were incorrect on September 8, 2020, unfortunately this appointment would be null. This will have to be researched. If the decision is challenged, the appointment could be null.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Chris Ehlert and seconded by Kate Gilstad-Hayden for discussion.

On a motion made by Chris Ehlert and seconded by Kate Gilstad-Hayden, the Board of Finance unanimously **VOTED** to adjourn at 6:41pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelley S. Frazier, Board of Finance Clerk