

TOWN OF RYE - SELECT BOARD

Thursday, September 09, 2021

2:00 p.m.

Rye Town Hall

Present: Chair Bill Epperson, Vice-Chair Phil Winslow, Selectman Tom King

Others Present: Town Administrator Becky Bergeron

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Epperson called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

II. LEGAL SERVICES RFP – OPENING OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED

A. Select Board met to acknowledge bids submitted in regards to providing legal services for the town of Rye.

- Proposal #1 - Mitchell Municipal Group, PA, 25 Beacon Street, Laconia, NH.
- Proposal #2 - Preti Flaherty, 57 Main Street, Concord, NH.
- Proposal #3 - DTC, Donahue, Tucker & Ciandella, 16 Acadia Lane, Exeter, NH.
- Proposal #5 - Drummond Woodsum, 670 N Commercial Street, Manchester, NH.
- Proposal #6 - Upton & Hatfield, LLP, 10 Centre Street, Concord, NH.

III. DISCUSSION

Chair Epperson noted that they need to decide who will be on the committee to review the qualifications and submit the final proposal to the Select Board. He recommended that these individuals be significantly involved in every aspect of the legal process for the Town; such as, planning and zoning.

Administrator Bergeron stated that they had mentioned a few people for the selection panel in the past. She is not sure if they had discussed a member of the Zoning Board. She offers this suggestion as they will have a significant involvement in these services. She recommends Patricia Weathersby (chair of the zoning board).

Selectman King asked if they are thinking of Pat Losik (chair of planning board), Patricia Weathersby and Kim Reed (planning/zoning administrator).

Chair Epperson confirmed. Kim Reed probably interacts the most with legal when it comes to planning and zoning. She would be a logical candidate. He pointed out that Patricia Weathersby is an attorney and chair of the ZBA, so she would be a good choice. He commented that Pat

Losik may be the smartest person he has ever met, certainly the most thorough. She would be really good.

There was discussion about whether a selectman should be included on the committee. It was the consensus of the select board that Chair Epperson would sit on the committee.

It was agreed that the selection panel include Chair Epperson, Patricia Losik, Patty Weathersby, Kim Reed, Attorney Michael Donovan, and Becky Bergeron. Town Administrator Bergeron will reach out to the people they would like on the panel.

There was discussion about the process for selection. It was agreed that the selectman would like to see a matrix from the committee, in order to include any questions the select board may have. The committee can then talk to each candidate and include their rating on the matrix, which will be submitted back to the select board. At that time, the selectman can decide if the committee should narrow down the candidates through an interview process or if the select board should be involved. It was also agreed that the committee or select board should visit the firm to see the daily operation. The selection process needs to be completed by the end of October.

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

- A quorum of the select board will be attending the Historic District Commission meeting on Wednesday, September 15th, 5:30 p.m. at the Rye Public Library to discuss the application for 500 Washington Road. The HDC will be reviewing the proposal for the windows, doors and exterior of the building.
- A select board work session will held on Tuesday, September 14th, 8:00 a.m. at the Town Hall to discuss select board initiatives.
 - Chair Epperson proposed topics such as, sewer, parking, cell communication and survey. He recommended having an estimate for any budgetary issues that need to be funded for the 2022 Budget.
 - Vice-Chair Winslow suggested prioritizing the issues brought to the table and focusing on five items. He also suggested meeting with each of the chairs of the boards, commissions and committees to find out their priorities for 2022.
- The select board discussed the request of the Town Center Committee to expand their charter to include the area down to the end of the cemetery for the purposes of lighting and road improvements (outside the stone wall).
 - The selectman agreed that they would approve the request, just for a plan for lighting, on the cemetery side of the road.

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Referring to the legal bid proposals, **Joe Cummins, 990 Washington Road**, asked if the documents were public record.

Chair Epperson replied no. It's a confidential hiring process for a town attorney.

Vice-Chair Winslow further explained that the select board will be reviewing the documents in a non-public meeting on September 13th.

Mr. Cummins asked if the selection committee's meetings will be open to the public.

Chair Epperson commented it would be non-public.

Mr. Cummins asked if the submitters understood that these would be privileged documents and not open to the public.

Selectman King noted there is pricing information in the documents. With any contract, the pricing is not public information. Only the winner of the bid will be publicized.

Mr. Cummins asked if anyone else made submittals, besides the ten that were solicited for proposals.

Town Administrator Bergeron assured Mr. Cummins that the information was publicized on the town's website, in a paper of general circulation and at town hall. It was properly advertised and noticed. She pointed out that the town did receive inquiries from other firms who were not on the list.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

**Motion by Chair Epperson to adjourn Select Board meeting at 2:35 p.m.
Seconded by Vice-Chair Winslow. All in Favor.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Dyana F. Ledger