



TOWN OF CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WATER COMMISSIONERS & ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
15 MIDDLEFIELD RD
CHESTER MA 01011

Wednesday, January 20th, 2021

Police Chief Final Interviews – Blandford Town Hall

Selectmen from Chester John Baldasaro, Richard Holzman and Barbara Huntoon present; as well as Selectmen from Blandford Cara Letendre, Tom Ackley, and Eric McVeigh. Other Town Hall staff present in the building or virtually included Chester Town Administrator Kathe Warden, Administrative Assistant Jill Strong; from Blandford Town Administrator Joshua Garcia, the current Chief Ilnick, Blandford Highway Superintendent Rene Senecal and Fire Chief Dave Mottor and a Blandford resident Bob Twyman.

Meeting is being recorded and web base is available via zoom.

Before either candidate was called in the Selectmen discussed that among the initial eleven candidates, we are now down to the last two and agreed both are very qualified for the position. Both Selectboards had a copy of the questions to be asked of the candidates as well as a copy of each resume. A quick reminder was given to keep everyone on track to stick to the questions, all of which were submitted by the Selectmen. It was agreed Cara and Barbara would alternate asking the questions. The first candidate called in was Shawn Boyne; the second Tammy Weidhaas. Questions as follows:

1. Tell us why you want to be the Chester/Blandford Police Chief?
2. Identify, based upon your knowledge of Chester & Blandford and their demographics, the program areas you would focus on and describe how you would intend to undertake the tasks as a new chief during your first six months on the job.
3. There are several projects started by the retiring chief that still need support and completion. These include a CAD & RMS mobile platform, migration of Blandford's radio system to Northampton control and the establishment of a Chester and a Blandford patrol districts. Explain your level of commitment to carry through with these projects and why they are important to the progress of the CBPD communities.
4. Community policing is an important philosophy for our department. Please provide your definition of community policing and how you anticipate promoting this in Chester and Blandford.
5. Describe your general management style regarding these areas, and provide examples of how you would deal with each:

- Select Board
 - Town Administrator
 - Employees
 - Community Relations
6. As a Police Chief, it is vital for all the departments to work closely and cooperatively together. It is a challenge to be working with two Fire Departments and two Highway Departments. What are your ideas for facilitating cooperation?
 - Barbara and Cara added to the question, the challenge of working with the budget for two towns.
 7. Describe three specific accomplishments in your local government law enforcement career that you consider to be the most significant.
 8. Junk and other code violations are issues in our area. What should the role of the Chetsrer/Blandford Police Department be in addressing this quality of life, health, and safety issue?
 9. Considering domestic current events, how would you plan for, and act upon events should any occur in the Berkshire/Pioneer area?
 10. Do you have any questions for us or anything else you want to share that we did not talk about?

After each interview was completed the Select Board from each town went into a discussion regarding their decision of which candidate was the best choice. John stated they were both excellent candidates and nice that each came from different backgrounds. Shawn from a bigger community with a larger staff and Tammy who is currently on our Police force and within the community. He thought she was spot-on with her answers to the questions and would be fully prepared for the position. There was some concern among all the Select Board members if Shawn would be able to break away from the larger town mentality especially into these smaller towns with a much smaller budget. All felt that it was wonderful to see that we had an internal candidate and all that had interacted with Tammy prior to the interview felt she was a great asset to the community. Rich made the motion to appoint Tammy Weidhaas to the position of Police Chief of the Chester Blandford Police Department. Cara amended the motion as dependent on the contract negotiation for a full-time position. John 2nd the amendment, it was seconded, and all voted aye. Motion made to appoint Tammy Weidhaas Chief of the Chester Blandford Police Department contingent on contract negotiations. Seconded and all voted aye. John thanked our current Chief Inicky for doing a GREAT job, and stated he believed no one else in the position has accomplished the things he had done. The Chief let us know that Tammy has already been shadowing him and he would be available to help with the transition; "It's been a pleasure." Barbara thanked the committee that helped to choose the candidates.

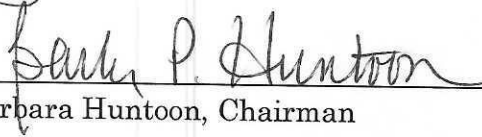
Adjourned 8:10 PM

Respectfully Submitted



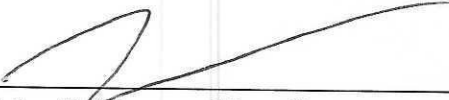
Jill Strong, Administrative Assistant

1/28/21
Date Signed



Barbara Huntoon, Chairman

2/4/21
Date Signed



John Baldasaro, Vice Chairman

Date Signed



Richard Holzman, Clerk

Date Signed