



TOWN OF CHESTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
15 MIDDLEFIELD RD.
CHESTER MA 01011

Monday, August 1st, 2022

Open Meeting: This meeting was held in the Blandford Town Hall with a virtual option.

Blandford Selectboard members Cara Letendre and Jeff Allen were present with Chester Selectboard John Baldasaro and Andy Sutton, Jason Fogue participated remotely. Town staff present included Blandford Town Administrator Christopher Dunne, Chester Town Administrator Kathe Warden, and Chester Administrative Assistant Jill Strong. Current Police Chief Weidhaas was present along with Officer Frank Murphy and a few residents present as well as participating remotely.

Before getting started both Boards reviewed the questions and discussed any that they would like to skip or make sure were asked. Jason stated that questions related to community policing he felt were important, all agreed. John commented that the question regarding grant writing was not a top priority as not all the candidates had experience with this. Cara stated the question regarding hostile press she did not feel was necessary, all agreed. John stated that the questions were a good framework, but they needed to be able to deviate if necessary. All agreed and decided each board member would ask a question aside from Jason who was remote. At the conclusion of each candidates' questions Jason would be able to comment and ask any questions that came up. The candidates to be interviewed were James, Jim, Grzelak, Nicole Miller, and Jennifer Dubiel. The interview questions were as follows:

1. Please describe three specific accomplishments in your local law enforcement career that you consider to be the most significant.
2. What types of crime prevention measures do you believe are most effective for your area of responsibility? Why?
3. How will you handle the police chief responsibilities differently from others?
4. Can you walk me through the grant writing process? Were you able to successfully obtain any grants in your career?

Jim was not asked this question as he does not have experience writing grants.

5. Based upon your knowledge of Chester/Blandford and its demographics, identify the program areas you would focus on and describe how you would intend to undertake the tasks of a new chief during your first six months on the job.
6. Explain your approach to promoting the concept of Community Oriented Policing throughout all sections of a police department.

leadership role. Although she is currently the Chief for the town of Washington it would be a significant population increase and all were unsure if she would be strong enough to stand on her own.

The third and final candidate Jennifer most felt was the strongest candidate however John was concerned regarding the time that she took off when working in Northampton. Cara and others agreed that the ability to make the decision to step away and reevaluate was a mature and sometimes difficult decision. The group discussed that Northampton at the initial time of the Police Reform was a much different environment with the defund the police mentality and multiple protests. Jason and Jeff both stated that they had been approached by the Russell Chief who she currently works with, and he gave a strong recommendation commenting that her administrative work was phenomenal. Chief Weidhaas commented that she was proud of Jennifer for putting it out there why she needed to take a step back and that she was her top candidate as her replacement.

Cara made the motion to hire Jennifer Dubiel as the new Chester Blandford Police Chief, Jeff seconded, all voted Aye.

Jason made the motion to hire Jennifer Dubiel as the new Chester Blandford Police Chief, Andy seconded, John voted no, majority vote rules.

Jennifer Dubiel is voted by the Chester and Blandford Board of Selectmen as the new Police Chief for the Chester Blandford Police Department.

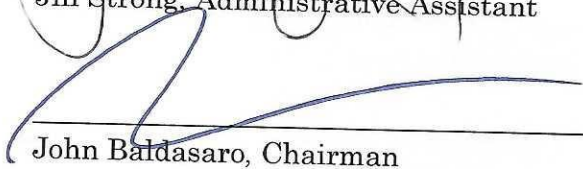
Kathe stated that she would notify all candidates tomorrow and pull Chief Weidhaas's contract to get something created for Jennifer. Cara stated that we should stick with the voted upon salary that is currently in the budget, all agreed.

Respectfully Submitted



Jill Strong, Administrative Assistant

8/3/22
Date Signed



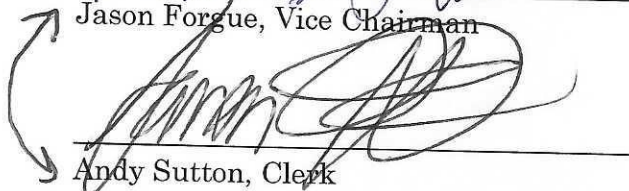
John Baldasaro, Chairman

8/5/22
Date Signed



Jason Forgue, Vice Chairman

8/5/22
Date Signed



Andy Sutton, Clerk

8/8/22
Date Signed