

TOWN OF WILLINGTON

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BOARD OF FINANCE

Special Meeting
Hybrid — In Person and Online

November 16, 2023
6:30 PM

**Minutes are not official until approved at the next regular meeting*

Members Present (a quorum of 4 members is required to conduct business):

Stephanie Summers Chair	Geoffrey Prusak Vice Chairman	Christina Mailhos	Joseph Sherrell	James Marshall	Jim Gilligan (ALT)	Elisabeth Woolf (ALT)	Vacancy
In person	In person	In person	In person	In person	Absent	In person	

Also Present:

Donna Latincsics, Business Manager – In person
Erika Wicewski, First Selectwoman – In person
Residents in person and via Zoom

Chair Stephanie Summers called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

SEATING OF ALTERNATES:

Christina Mailhos moved to seat Elisabeth Woolf.
James Marshall seconded the motion.
All in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

Filling Board Vacancy

Stephanie Summers explained that a question arose as to whether by state statute a Board of Finance member's term of office expires the day after the election or on November 21st when the normal changeover with the newly elected members takes place. After seeking state and town opinion, the legal opinion is that the term of Jim Marshall is through November 21st.

Stephanie Summers noted that Peter Tanaka's resignation was formalized and effective Sunday, November 12, 2023. She communicated to the Board that state statute, a candidate's interest, the number of incoming Board members without experience, and the press of budget season prompted her to call the meeting. She received a letter of interest from resident Jason Ross that she believes the Board should consider. Stephanie Summers highlighted information from the letter and invited Mr. Ross

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to speak. Mr. Ross explained that over the last few years he felt drawn to become more involved and saw this opportunity. Stephanie Summers noted that the Republican Town Committee nominated Jim Bulick as a candidate for the vacancy and he is in attendance this evening. She invited him to speak. Mr. Bulick explained that his term as Selectman is ending soon. He has served as Chair on both the Board of Finance and CIP.

Erika Wiczenski noted that the town attorney weighed in on this matter. A Selectman, or anyone else salaried by the town, may not be seated on the Board of Finance (§9-210). Currently, Mr. Bulick is seated as a Selectman.

Christina Mailhos motioned to nominate Jason Ross to fill the vacancy.

Elisabeth Woolf seconded the motion.

Discussion: Christina Mailhos inquired about minority representation and confirmed that Mr. Ross is a registered Republican. Elisabeth Woolf commented that she believes it is excellent that Mr. Ross offered a letter of interest, and wonderful to have someone who truly wants to be on the Board serve. James Marshall noted that he appreciates Mr. Ross stepping up to help the community. Stephanie Summers read the letter sent by Mr. Ross. She asked if there were any other nominations. There were none.

Geoffrey Prusak commented that he did not know why they had to hold the special meeting.

Geoffrey Prusak motioned to table this item to the December meeting.

Second: none.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion to nominate Jason Ross to fill the vacancy.

In favor: Summers, Mailhos, Marshall, Woolf

Opposed: none

Abstentions: Prusak, Sherrell

Motion carried. (4-2)

Stephanie Summers thanked both candidates for attending.

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Pascuzzi

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Recording Secretary