

IN BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MONDAY, JUNE 9, 2003

INTERVIEWS FOR PROPERTY TAX EQUITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Present: Chairman Kirsten D. Roopenian, Selectmen John C. Drobinski and Lawrence W. O'Brien.

The statutory requirement for notice having been met, the meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m. in the Lower Town Hall, 322 Concord Road.

Opening Remarks

Chairman Roopenian briefly explain this evening's interview process for positions on the new Property Tax Equity Review Committee, created on May 5, 2003. In accordance with that vote, she reiterated the Board will be appointing at least two but up to six at-large committee members. Having reviewed all applications, the Board will take this opportunity to ask several questions to further evaluate candidates, announcing their selection at the Selectmen's meeting on June 10.

Candidates were interviewed in groups of several people. Other groups remained in the foyer until their interview time. Once interviewed, groups could remain to hear other interviews. Candidates were grouped as follows:

Group A = Judith Deutsch, Albert Feinberg, Robert Gottberg, Phillip Mighdoll, Basil Pallone and Ralph Tyler.

Group B = William Cole, Peter Glass, William Maloney, and Abner Salant.

Group C = Christine Ellersick, James Gardner, Tad Mayer, Tara Reed, and Claire Schlosser.

Group D = Michael DuCros, Peter Hendersen, Paul Pakos, Richard Vanderslice and Thomas Young.

During their interview time, each candidate introduced himself/herself and made brief introductory remarks. Questions and sample of responses included (but not limited to):

What skills do you bring to this committee?

Managerial, legal, analytical, or financial planning experience, long history of community service, long time resident, fairly new resident without personal agenda, ability to remain open-minded and hear all viewpoints.

How will you handle yourself in a group of conflicting opinions?

Try to remain open-minded to hear all opinions, get all facts before deciding, communication is crucial, do not make quick decisions, stay focused on mission of committee, use of subcommittees with strong chairperson, work to minimize divisiveness.

How would you define the term “tax equity”?

An ability to pay taxes, a fair balance of services received and value of those services, seniors should be exempt, concessions to new businesses, maximum tax rate on commercial sector, developers should pay premium to build new housing her, minimum residency time requirement, all ages as circumstances change (i.e., wage-earner laid off), not all seniors have limited income.

What should the purpose of this committee be?

Consider all financial aspects of shifting the tax burden, determining fair and equitable process, understanding of legal ramifications, good communication to residents.

Who should serve on this committee?

A mix of residents, young and old, varying income groups, every resident should have an opportunity to serve or offer input, people have varying personal and professional experience that may be helpful, good analytical and communicative skill.

While this committee cannot set the residential tax rate, what suggestions would you make with regard to understanding the tax structure?

Money must be voted at Town Meeting so that all residents have opportunity to be heard, have open meetings before Town Election/Meeting to allow for questions and concerns, broadcast those meetings on cable 8, offer residents the opportunity to learn how the tax rate is determined.

If you had a magic wand, how would you use it to create a “sense of community”?

Go back to the Sudbury farming days when people helped their neighbors all the time, everyone was poor so no income disparity, common goals and purposes, local politics should not be divisive, work for the good of fellow residents.

What do you see as a vision for the Sudbury in the future?

Learn from the past while evaluating how to proceed in the future, merging of the long time residents and “bedroom community” people so all feel at home, encourage more people to serve in volunteer capacity as seniors become unable to offer as much time and energy.

The Board thanked all candidates for their interest in serving on this committee. Chairman Roopenian opined it would be difficult to make a selection with so many qualified individuals.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 10:44 p.m.

Attest: _____
Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager-Clerk