

THE FOLLOWING MEETING WAS NEITHER AUDIOTAPED NOR VIDEORECORDED.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

SPECIAL MEETING – VETERANS' SERVICES OFFICER INTERVIEWS

TUESDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2013, 9:37 o'clock A.M.

TOWN HALL HEARINGS ROOM

Chairman Dean V. Cronin called to order the Board of Selectmen in the Town Hall Hearings Room at 9:37 o'clock A.M. on Tuesday, 10 September 2013, for the purpose of interviewing applicants for appointment as Veterans Services Officer to succeed resigned VSO John "Jack" Taylor, USN (Ret.). Present were, in addition to Chairman Cronin, Selectmen Patrick W. Menges and Thomas J. Pires, and Secretary to the Veterans' Services Officer Nancy .

Chairman Cronin had the original copies of three (3) applications received by the Board including applicants' resumes and DD Forms 214. Clerk of the Board of Selectmen Patrick W. Menges had copies of the applications for his use, and two volumes of the Massachusetts General Laws, containing Chapters 4 and 115, respectively.

David Marvill was the first applicant interviewed for the position of Veterans' Services Officer. Chairman Cronin asked Mr. Marvill to begin by telling the Selectmen a little bit about his background and why he thought he should be chosen for the position. Mr. Marvill mentioned his work as Assistant Graves Officer under David L. Phillips, formerly of Dighton and now of South Carolina, and then Graves Officer, and that he has had other associations and involvements with veterans' affairs for the town.

Selectman Menges stated that Mr. Marvill's DD Form 214 seemed to indicate that he had served on active duty in the Air Force from 1977 through 1981, and Mr. Marvill agreed. Selectman Menges stated that it did not appear that Mr. Marvill had spent a day on active duty during a conflict to meet the Massachusetts definition of as "veteran" provided by Section 7 of Chapter 4 of the General Laws, which is a prerequisite for appointment as a Veterans' Services Officer under Chapter 115, Section 1. Mr. Marvill said that he was going to explain that; he said that he had talked about that with the Veterans' Services Officer of Plymouth who had told him that he had been appointed without meeting that requirement, that that law no longer applied, that it could be interpreted different ways, that it had been changed. "You are not qualified to hold the position," Selectman Menges told Mr. Marvill, indicating that what Plymouth had done did not matter. "If that's the way it is, then we might as well end this interview now," Mr. Marvill said, and he gathered up his papers and left the interview, without further discussion.

VETERANS' OFFICER INTERVIEWS MEETING (Continued.)

The Selectmen next interviewed Kimberly Walker at 10:02 a.m. She has one (1) son and three (3) grandchildren. Since an active duty naval career, including active duty during a conflict meeting the requirements of Section 1, Chapter 116, and of Chapter 4, Section 7, of the General Laws, she has been a volunteer at the Nathan Hale Veterans' Center in Middleborough, a volunteer at the Veterans' Administration in Providence, Rhode Island, and worked for seven (7) years at the Newport Naval Base, since which time she worked for seven (7) years in the civilian propane industry with NGO Energy, Osternan, concerned with storage, piping, and permitting in eastern and central Massachusetts. She wants to work with veterans again, she said, both careerists and "short term" personnel; "there's a lot of need out there," she said, adding that she has "dearly missed" working with veterans for the last seven (7) years. Kimberly Walker emphasized her administrative background. She was stationed in Naples, Italy, bringing service personnel and families into the country. She served in "SDA 21", Newport, Rhode Island. She also served at the Navy's Senior Enlisted (E-8/E-9) Academy, processing personnel going overseas, arranging lodging, transportation, &c. She is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Her interview ended at 10:40 a.m.

Donald Hirschy appeared before the board to be interviewed for Veterans' Services Officer at 10:45 a.m. He has attended every town sponsored veterans' event, he said, for the last thirty (30) years. He helped the Veterans of Foreign Wars (Rapoza-Knott Post 2094 Consolidated) (now disbanded) for thirty (30) years, he told the Board, helping to maintain VFW Hall, repair the roof, &c. He has marched in every Memorial Day parade for the last twenty-five (25) years. A Viet Nam era veteran, he is a life member of the Disabled Veterans of America (DAV). He is about to retire from his career as a fraud investigator for the state. Mr. Hirschy stated that he is familiar with Chapter 115 of the Massachusetts General Laws, and is aware of the importance of transporting veterans to West Roxbury and Jamaica Plain. Nancy interjected that Rehoboth has a van for this purpose and "would love to work with Dighton". Mr. Hirschy was told that the next training for Veterans' Services Officers will be in Leominster during the second week of October. He told the Selectmen that he would appear before the state retirement board on Friday but that his last day of state employment before retiring will be October 18th.

Selectman Menges read Chapter 4, Section 7 of the General Laws, and said that Mr. Hirschy's military service qualified him for veteran status under Massachusetts law and rendered him eligible to be a Veterans' Services Officer under Chapter 116. Selectman Cronin stated that former VSO Jack Taylor had expected in the near future a great influx of veterans being returnees from America's most recent wars. Concerning the VSO's expected eight hours per week, Nancy commented to him that Mr. Taylor used to work half of them on Mondays and half on Wednesdays. Mr. Hirschy asked "What is the rate of pay?".

Upon a motion of Selectman Pires, seconded by Selectman Menges, the board of selectmen unanimously voted to appoint Donald Hirschy Dighton's Veteran's Services Officer.

The meeting was adjourned without day, at 11:17 a.m.

Sharon J. Pires 9/18/13

Patrick W. Menges
Clerk of the Board of Selectmen
13 September 2013