

Welcome and Introduction:

Virginia made the following opening statements:

There has been some confusion by me on what the new process should be due to the newness and need to figure out how to implement it. It has only been in effect since Nov. 1, 2021.

Thank you for the 3 candidates being here.

There has also been some concern if these candidates needed to come through the Democratic Town Committee DTC or the Republican Town Committee RTC or not and in fact no candidate is required to do so. The legal requirements are that candidates are electors and taxpayers with attention paid to minority representation. The DTC and RTC commissions are value add making important contributions as part of the process and but are political organizations.

She continued that one of her favorite sayings is the board of Finance holds the purse strings, but it is only a short cut for the deeper understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the BoF.

The several and dispersed State Statutes pertaining to the BoF indicate the BoF has fiduciary control of policy and financial administration and Statutes 7-344 and 7-388 are key.

“The Connecticut Handbook for Boards Of Finance” put it in layman terms and she read the following from page 4: “The board of finance actually has two roles to play in selectmen-town meeting towns: one in the area of policy making, the other in the area of administration.”

In the towns which operate under the general statutes, the board of finance has complete charge of the town government's financial activities. Along with the budget-making power goes the opportunity to coordinate all town government functions and to recommend and effectuate administrative changes which will facilitate budgeting.

The board of finance's managerial role has grown out of the necessity to coordinate the activities of many part-time officials which serve under the selectmen/town meeting form of government.”

Note the BoF does not report to the Board of Selectmen, it stands apart with its own rolls and responsibilities by state statute and in fact we hold the purse strings.

Seating of Members: V. Carmany, R. Nygard, J. O’Hare, A. Gardner, M. Joplin and seated for the vacancy M. Jordan.

New Business: V. Carmany acknowledged and congratulated the newly elected BoF Members and welcomed the 3 candidates for considering serving on the BoF.

She noted that we have received your paperwork/applications, coverletters and resumes and asked each of them to speak at bit about how they became interested in the board and how they think they will be able to contribute.

Each candidate spoke well of their interest and experience and in summary:

Bill – he received information from John O’Hare regarding the urgency for a republican candidate and reconsidered his involvement in several other town organizations in order to make time available for this opportunity. He spoke about his involvement in town commissions and his career in which he got value out of data in various positions.

Steve – make similar remarks to his remarks back in April. Been in town 30 yrs and served on various commissions. Land Trust, Rotary, Town Hall Expansion etc. but not part of town government and this was another way to be involved. He is an attorney in practice in Essex.

Deb – Loves Chester, loves supporting it anyway possible and saw the vacancies on the Town Website. Also an attorney and her fiduciary responsibilities and her experience dove tail with the rolls and responsibilities of a BoF.

Questions from BoF members:

J. O’Hare asked if Bill had an MBA and the answer was yes.

V. Carmany indicated there are three openings:

- a full member for a term 11/16/21 to 11/16/27
- an alternate full term 11/16/21 to 11/16/27
- an alternate 2 yr term from 11/02/21 to 11/21/23

Question as to party affiliations and minority representation requirements was raised and V. Carmany responded: The full member seat is required to be a republican, one of the alternate seats is required to be a republican and the other alternate seat could be a democrat or not. Bernhart and Cline are republicans and Vilcheck is a democrat. That each appointment was required to run in the next election in two years.

Process was discussed and the three candidates indicated they would be amenable to full or alternate seat consideration and for either terms though Bernhart and Cline indicated preference for the full seat. Vilcheck was fine with the short term alternate

V. Carmany nominated W. Bernhart and J. O’Hare seconded for the Full member seat

M. Jordon nominated S. Cline and A. Gardner seconded for the Full member seat

The three candidates were asked to leave the meeting so the Board could go through its process of voting. V. Carmany indicated she would call them after the meeting to tell them the results.

The results:

Bernhart was appointed to the Full member seat for a term 11/16/21 to 11/16/27 (a republican)

M. Jordon nominated Cline and Gardner seconded:

Cline was appointed to the Alternate member seat for a term 11/16/21 to 11/16/27 (a republican)

Carmany nominated Vilcheck and Nygard seconded :

Vilcheck was appointed to the Alternate member seat for a term from 11/02/21 to 11/21/23 (a democrat)

The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 pm on a motion by Nygard, seconded by Jordan and unanimously approved.

Prepared by V. Carmany