

**Town of Bedford, MA**  
**Finance Committee Appointing Authority**  
June 14, 2023  
Select Board Meeting Room – Bedford Town Hall

**PRESENT:** Chair Mark Siegenthaler, Ben Thomas, Bopha Malone

**ALSO PRESENT:** Abigail Siebert, Stephen Steele

Chair Mark Siegenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

The members reviewed the FCAA's June 8, 2023, Meetings Minutes. Mr. Thomas moved to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Ms. Malone. **The motion passed 3-0-0.**

Mr. Siegenthaler welcomed Mr. Mark Bailey and Mr. George Lee. The Chair asked Mr. Bailey to share why he's interested in the Finance Committee (FC).

Mr. Bailey talked about his passion and commitment to the Town, his experience of serving on various town committees, and his strength in building consensus. There's a vacancy on the FC, and he felt called to serve.

Mr. Thomas asked Mr. Bailey to talk about the issues that he feels need attention in Town or issues that are well. Mr. Bailey talked about the fire station project and the need for affordable housing.

Ms. Malone asked about his understanding of the difference between municipal finance and corporate finance. Although he understands that municipal financing is different, he spoke about the similarities between the two with his 26 years of experiences in sales and investment banking.

Mr. Thomas asked about his impression of the FC. Mr. Bailey spoke about the strong structure in place. An area that FC could improve on having more trust in employees when they make recommendations. Ms. Malone shared that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is an overarching goal of the Select Board. She asked Mr. Bailey how he would promote/integrate DEI as a member of FC. Mr. Bailey spoke about his pride and commitment in furthering this work, he hopes to help make Bedford more accessible to everyone without a political agenda.

Next, they interviewed Mr. Lee. Each FCAA member asked the same questions in the same order. Mr. Lee talked about moving to Bedford in 2016, and he's interested in serving on the FC because he wants to represent newer residents and young families. He said that he brings a fresh perspective. He believes that the Town is managed well and is fiscally strong. If appointed, this would be Mr. Lee's first time on any board or committee. Mr. Lee explained that his role as a director of a biotech company is to manage and oversee the program's budget. Like business, he sees his role on the FC as a collaborative one, working with department heads to identify what is needed most and helping to achieve the Town's vision and goals. His impressions of the FC are that all members are committed, have different perspectives, and ask good questions to try to understand. Some areas that FC can improve on are trusting employees' recommendations and not getting into too much minutia. In regard to DEI, he sees Bedford as a small knit, diverse community, which is a strength. He spoke about MassBio having a lot of training on DEI, and he has gotten many trainings to help promote this within his professional work, and he sees that it can be translated in his volunteer work as well.

Mr. Thomas talked about the commitment of FC, and both candidates said that they can meet those requirements.

Mr. Siegenthaler thanked both candidates. He shared that the committee has two more candidates to interview on June 20, 2023. Since there's only 1 vacancy, he encouraged candidates to stay involved. Should they not get appointed to FC, he encouraged them to look at other boards and committees in Town.

Mr. Siegenthaler updated FACC members that one reappointment questionnaire was received as of tonight. If they receive the other reappointment questionnaire back before their June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, they will put that on the agenda to discuss.

Mr. Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Malone seconded. **The motion passed 3-0-0** and the meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm.

Submitted By: Bopha Malone