

**Town of Bedford, MA**  
**Finance Committee Appointing Authority**  
June 20, 2023  
Select Board Meeting Room – Bedford Town Hall

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Paul Mortenson

Chair Mark Siegenthaler called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. The members reviewed the FCAA's June 14, 2023, Meeting Minutes. Mr. Thomas moved to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Ms. Malone. **The motion passed 3-0-0.**

Mr. Siegenthaler welcomed Mr. Doug Horton and Mr. Philip Prince. The Chair gave information about the Finance Committee (FC) and the Open Meeting Law to both candidates. He asked Mr. Horton to share why he's interested in the FC.

Mr. Horton said that he's an experienced financial professional who loves Bedford and would like to give back. He serves on the Lane School Parent Advisory Council.

Mr. Thomas asked Mr. Horton to talk about the issues that he feels need attention or are well in Town. Mr. Horton talked about the Town's focus and investments in schools.

Mr. Horton spoke about the different sources of revenue streams between corporations and municipalities in response to Ms. Malone's question about his understanding of the difference between municipal finance and corporate finance.

Mr. Thomas asked about his understanding of FC's role and relationship with the Town and other boards and committees and his impression of the FC. Mr. Horton spoke about FC's role in working with other boards to provide oversight and management to the Town. His impression of the FC is a positive one where the members approach issues with understanding.

Ms. Malone shared that Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) is an overarching goal of the Select Board. She asked Mr. Horton how he would promote/integrate DEI as a member of FC. Mr. Horton talked about the importance of having a diverse background and experience.

Next, they interviewed Mr. Prince. Each FCAA member asked the same questions in the same order. Mr. Prince talked about moving to Bedford in 2016, and he's interested in serving on the FC because in his role, he works closely with various groups across the organization to ensure alignment around a vision, and he views the role on FC as similar responsibility. He believes that the Town has been operating from a position of strength. He commends the Town in overcoming COVID-19 and meeting targets. An area that could be improved is staff retention. He spoke about the difference between corporate and municipal finance. The main revenue base is taxes in municipal finance, and the return on investment is how well we use those funds to provide services that our Town needs. His impressions of the FC are that the committee gets into issues instead of ideas. They also get into a lot of details with every line item. He believes that the committee should approach both the school's and Town's budget holistically. In regard to DEI, Mr. Prince touched on supporting and promoting services such as taxation aid and council on aging to help promote our vision.

Mr. Siegenthaler thanked both candidates. He encouraged candidates to stay involved should they not get appointed to the FC.

Mr. Thomas moved to appoint Mr. Bailey to the Finance Committee with a term ending in June 2026. Ms. Malone seconded. **The motion passed 3-0-0.**

Mr. Siegenthaler updated FCAA members that we have received both reappointment questionnaires back. The members agreed that they would like to speak to both candidates and consider their reappointments and of other candidates they have also interviewed. The Chair will ask Mr. Ticotsky to reach out to both candidates to come and speak with them on July 11<sup>th</sup> or July 13<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. If those dates won't work, we will add whatever it takes to get the task done.

Mr. Thomas moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Malone seconded. **The motion passed 3-0-0** and the meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm.

Submitted By: Bopha Malone