



BOARD OF SELECTMEN AGENDA
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 6, 2020
5:30 PM

ROOM 204, ACTON TOWN HALL, 472 MAIN STREET

Present: Joan Gardner, Jon Benson, Dean Charter, Peter J. Berry, David Martin, Town Manager
John S. Mangiaratti, and Lisa Tomyl Recording Secretary

I. **New/Special Business**

Approve Independent Investigation of January 9, 2020 Incident at Merriam School

Ms. Gardner opened the meeting at 5:30 PM. Mr. Mangiaratti recalled last meeting to work with town Council with Peter Berry to better understand the incident that occurred on January 9. A finalist has been chosen and Mr. Berry gave the update on the final candidate. Met with her at Nina's office. She is a woman of color, and has a long career in public service. Mr. Berry read her CV to the Board. Associate Dwyer and Callera in Boston.

One issue is the cost. Mentioned 750/hr. proposed for 625/hr includes her time and an associates time. Possible 100 hours and possibly 175k in cost. Suggests the JM oversee her work and work closely in monitoring her work. Contacted another firm Prince, etc. out of Boston. Offered discounted work of 500/hr. Other partners would be 400/hr, other rates 250-470/hr. Natasha would be the lead person to conduct the interview. Recommend retain Natasha for this investigation. Ms. Gardner question if there is money for this. Mr. Mangiaratti would certainly find a way to cover the cost. Mr. martin questioned who monitors her work. Mr. Berry said that she would contract with the town vs. A+K. Board needs to appoint someone to work with her closely. Mr. Benson asked if 625/hr rate and her associate – Mr. Berry said it is a blended rate for her and her associates. Would press her to do most of the work herself. Mr. Benson questioned about timeline – estimated about 60 days. Mr. Benson suggested Mr. Berry work with Mr. Mangiaratti to monitor the investigation. Mr. Benson moves to enter into an agreement with the candidate for an investigation surrounding an incident at the Merriam School on January 9, 2020, Mr. Martin seconds. Mr. Berry moves to authorize the Town Manager to enter into an agreement, Mr. Charter seconds. The Board voted 5-0. The motion carries.

Mr. Martin moves to adjourn, Mr. Benson seconds. The Board voted 5-0, the motion carries. Meeting adjourned at 5:50 PM.