

Meeting of the Northampton Elected Officials Compensation Advisory Board

Tuesday, December 13, 2022 • 5:30 – 6:30 p.m.

Online Zoom Meeting

Minutes

Board members present

- John Bidwell
- Tara Brewster
- Felicia Corbeil
- Sam Hopper
- Javier Luengo-Garrido
- Peter Whalen

Board members absent

- Noreen Mickiewicz Hayes

Additional attendees

- Clerk Pamela Powers
- Solicitor Alan Seewald

Minutes

- This Board is subject to [Conflict of Interest Law](#)
 - Main conflict anticipated for this Board would be an immediate family member who is an elected official
 - If any member has an immediate family member who is a Northampton elected official, let Solicitor Seewald know immediately
- Documents made and received by this committee are public record, need to be preserved, and are subject to public disclosure upon request
- This Board is subject to [Open Meeting Law](#)
 - 4 members is a quorum
 - Quorum may not discuss any matter in the jurisdiction of this committee within a quorum of members outside of meeting
 - Applies to both group or serial conversations
 - Any subset of this committee is recognized as a subcommittees and is also subject to Open Meeting Law
 - Meeting agendas must be posted with 48 hours notice with all matters the Chair reasonably expects to discuss and specific enough for someone to understand
 - If a document will be discussed at an upcoming meeting, it can be circulated to the full committee but cannot be discussed as a full committee outside of a public meeting

- Do not reply all in email correspondence with a quorum of the committee
- Northampton Charter has three elected bodies subject to compensation pursuant to [ordinance](#)
 - City Council
 - Mayor
 - School Committee
- Any elected officials can be compensated by ordinance if the Mayor and City Council choose to
- This committee's scope of work is to review the equity and adequacy in compensation and benefits of elected officials subject to compensation pursuant to ordinance
- This committee is charged with filing a report which goes to City Council & Mayor and filed with City Clerk
 - This committee decides what materials are relevant to and can gather information relevant to the committee's scopy and charge
- Available report template from [prior committee's report](#)
- Under city's [charter](#), compensation can only be increased with a 2/3 majority vote (6 councilors) of entire city council
- Timing of committee's work
 - Any increase in salary must be done within first 18 months of current council
 - Committee's report needs to be filed in time for City Council to do their work by July 3, 2023
 - Suggestion for committee to get work done in 90 days, which leaves City Council about 90 days to do their process
 - If City Council cannot act by July 3, 2023, it will need to wait until next go around
 - Any change in compensation doesn't apply until after the next city election
- Officer roles:
 - Chair - Establish agenda for meetings
 - Vice Chair - Steps in when Chair not available
 - Clerk - Takes minutes at meetings
- Officer nominations
 - Chair - John Bidwell nominated for Chair by Peter Whalen, seconded by Tara Brewster
 - Sam Hopper: Yes
 - Peter Whalen: Yes
 - Tara Brewster: Yes
 - Felicia Corbeil: Yes
 - John Bidwell: Abstain
 - Javier Luengo-Garrido: Yes
 - Vice Chair - Peter Whalen nominated self

- Clerk - Sam Hopper nominated self
 - Tara Brewster moved to vote on Vice Chair and Clerk as a slate, Peter Whalen second
 - Javier Luengo-Garrido: Yes
 - Sam Hopper: Yes
 - Peter Whalen: Yes
 - Tara Brewster: Yes
 - Felicia Corbeil: Yes
- Question raised about Open Meeting Law and need for quorum to be in person
 - [Extension of remote meeting provisions](#) that allow full remote participation through March 31, 2023
 - Every vote in remote meetings is a roll call
- This committee will meet twice a month in January and February then assess remaining work and schedule accordingly
 - Mondays at 5:30 work for all present
 - Upcoming meetings: January 9, January 23, February 6, February 20
 - Will decide on following meetings for March as work comes together
- Zoom meetings must be set up through the City Clerk's office
- Minutes process: Clerk takes minutes, Clerk circulates minutes to Board, Board votes on minutes at following meeting, approved minutes sent to City Clerk for posting
- Materials sent out related to this committee's work - Sam will include links sent out when sending out the minutes (do not reply all)
- Board introductions
 - Javier Luengo-Garrido - From Chile, in U.S. for 14 years and as a citizen for 8 years, works for the ACLU and is western Mass person, essentially lobbyist, works with municipal bodies along with elected officials and state legislature, writes policy
 - Sam Hopper (she/they) - Lives in Florence, lived in Northampton for 9 years, works in membership and programs for a global network of gender justice funders
 - Peter Whalen - Owns insurance business on King Street, owns several buildings in Downtown as landlord, born in Northampton
 - Tara Brewster - Born in Northampton, honeymooned in Chile, works for Greenfield Savings Bank as Vice President of Business Development and sees work as a community pollinator, served on many boards, connects folks with each other
 - Felicia Corbeil - Lives in Florence, works at Checkwriters as HR Manager, serves payroll and HR needs, has 2 kids, first time serving on Board, prior to working in HR was a teacher in Easthampton

- John Bidwell - Consultant with nonprofits and some businesses supporting with strategy, marketing, and communications, previously executive director at United Way, worked at Baystate Health in marketing, lived here 24 years
- Javier Luengo-Garrido moved to adjourn meeting, Tara Brewster seconded
 - Javier Luengo-Garrido: Yes
 - Sam Hopper: Yes
 - Peter Whalen: Yes
 - Tara Brewster: Yes
 - Felicia Corbeil: Yes
- Motion to adjourn passes unanimously

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.