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Mayor Appoints Donna LaScaleia New Director of Public Works

Today Mayor David J. Narkewicz announced the appointment of Donna LaScaleia as the City of Northampton's new Director of Public Works (DPW) following a four-month search process.

Ms. LaScaleia is a former Superintendent/Operations Supervisor for Vermont's largest electric utility, Green Mountain Power (formerly Central Vermont Public Service), where she oversaw daily operations in the Brattleboro and Wilmington districts with over 1,500 line miles of infrastructure and 8 power substations serving 25,000 customers. Her responsibilities included oversight of all regular and 24/7 emergency utility work, management of district personnel and budgets, planning and construction of capital projects, warehouse logistics and fleet management, training and safety, and customer service.

Prior to her work at Green Mountain Power, Ms. LaScaleia was Director of Facilities Management at the World Learning/SIT Graduate Institute, an international college located in Brattleboro, VT with 30 buildings on a 200-acre campus. There she led all aspects of daily facilities operations, including supervision of maintenance and custodial staff, budgeting and purchasing, capital planning and construction, snow removal, field and grounds care, environmental and code compliance, and vehicle, equipment, and materials management. Additionally, Ms. LaScaleia oversaw the operation of the college's private water and sewer utility infrastructure, planned its upgrade and expansion, and created a multi-year master plan to address deferred maintenance.

Ms. LaScaleia earned a bachelors degree in economics from Boston College. She is also a licensed master electrician, having worked for the Boston Electrical Workers Union IBEW Local 103 after college on industrial and commercial electrical installations including at the Boston Convention Center, South Station, Harvard University, and Quincy Market. Ms. LaScaleia also holds a commercial drivers license.

"Donna LaScaleia brings diverse experience in the utility, facilities, and construction fields, a broad and adaptable skill set managing people, operations, and infrastructure, and a track record of fostering teamwork and organizational excellence," said Mayor Narkewicz in announcing the appointment. "I am excited that she is joining the City of Northampton and am confident that she will be an outstanding Director for the dedicated and hard-working men and women of our Department of Public Works."

The Mayor submitted his appointment to the City Council for confirmation in accordance with the Northampton Charter, Article 2, § 2-10 and it will appear on the Council's May 5th agenda for a required committee referral. Ms. LaScaleia will begin work immediately as Acting Director in the interim to ensure a smooth transition from outgoing Acting Director/City Engineer James Laurila who has been leading the DPW since December and whose final day with the city is Friday, May 6, 2016.