

Present: Brian F. Moriarty, Chairman
Edmund E. Jaworski, Selectman
Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator

Chairman Moriarty opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. stating that the Board of Selectmen would be interviewing two finalists for the Police Chief position for the Hatfield Police Department which shall be effective upon the retirement of Chief Tom Osley.

Chairman Moriarty thanked members of the Screening Committee, Fran Gougeon, Retired Northampton Police Chief Russ Sienkewicz, Retired State Police Officer Ernie Patnode, Police Chief Tom Osley and Smith Academy Principal Dr. Andrew Berrios, for advancing two qualified candidates from a pool of 40 plus applicants. In addition, Chairman Moriarty thanked the Committee for their time and efforts.

Anticipating a meeting of the Board next week, Chairman Moriarty expects an employment proposal would be completed by the end of next week.

A series of seven questions (attached) were asked of the candidates. First candidate interviewed was Lt. Michael Dekoschak of the Hatfield Police Department. Lt. Dekoschak's interest in employment with the Hatfield Police Department several years ago was an opportunity for advancement to work for a larger community, and work days. Citing his primary mission is keeping peace and enforcing safety for the Town. He views the importance of training as appropriate to the needs of the department. Describing his communication skills, Lt. Dekoschak explained that it is in how you approach an individual, find common ground and explaining things properly. Viewing a challenge within the Department, particularly a small town, personnel is difficult. As a leader, he is there to help including other (town) departments and maintaining a good relationship with surrounding communities and letting them know his department is there to assist them. When it comes to the budget and capital items, Lt. Dekoschak believes the Police Department is well taken care of. Confident that he has the respect of the Police Department, he does not believe his credibility as Chief would be a problem.

Selectmen took a recess @ 5:05 p.m.

Session resumed at 5:40 p.m.

Second candidate, John Delaney a Sergeant with the City of Springfield, was welcomed to the final round of interviews. With his extensive background in law enforcement, Sergeant Delaney sees the position as a dream job and is looking forward to moving to the area. He demonstrates a range of experience working in the Narcotics Unit, Executive Assistant to Chief, as well as, Public Officer. He considers himself to be a good listener and problem solver. In his current capacity, he teaches conflict resolution and ethics to officers. Recognizing his strengths, he is a self-starter and someone who does not wait around to do

something. Sergeant Delaney is founder of the Bike to Remember which is an annual charity event. In addition, it was his idea to implement a gun buy-back program for the City. Although, Hatfield does not have the crime statistics like Springfield, he perceives heroin as something all communities have in common. In his mind, Sergeant Delaney said, getting addicted people help is a priority. Explaining what his first task as Chief would be, he would introduce himself to the schools and have a meet and greet with the community. Citing education as a “big thing”, he would send officers to classes for first aid and use of drugs including how to use Narcan. Sergeant Delaney is interested in getting to know the officers and their families.

Interviews were concluded.

Chairman Moriarty acknowledged both candidates as qualified to be Chief in Hatfield.

Selectmen proposed making a decision to offer the Chief’s position at their meeting on March 28th and entering into a contract for employment.

Motion made by Selectman Jaworski and seconded by Chairman Moriarty to adjourn the meeting. Vote: unanimous

7:35 pm. Adjourned

Respectfully,

Marlene Michonski
Town Administrator