

Memorandum

March 9, 2021

To: South Berwick Town Council

From: Jack Kareckas, Chair



RE: 2020-2021 Town Manager Search

Since last November, the Town Council has conducted a search for a new Town Manager. Over the course of three months since we closed applications on December 14, 2020 and 15 Special Council meetings the Council reviewed and pared down the list of 21 applicants to three finalists.

Over the period since last November many things have changed with respect to the manager search. These represent significant challenges for Council, staff and the overall Town. Our priority list has changed since we reviewed them with the Manager in January.

Covid-19 remains our highest concern, the annual budget, dealing with Medical and Adult Use Marijuana laws, regulations, and local ordinances on four fronts are all drains on our time and resources. We are reviewing sign ordinances for the Industrial and Business Park across 236 from the high school. Coming up in Spring, correction of long-standing entrance roof snow loading at the library looks like we now have a qualified contractor. All seem easy to deal with individually, but collectively are hard to accomplish and finalize.

On the immediate horizon we will be reviewing alternatives for the present Town Hall Building and possibly negotiating for a new Town Office.

The above are in addition to the day-to-day responsibilities of the Manager who in essence per the Charter and Code is the Town's CEO, CFO and COO.

Considering the above tasks and the willingness of Perry Ellsworth to extend his contract for one year, the Council is suspending the search for a new manager and working out the details for Perry's contract extension.

The Town Council thanks all the candidates for taking the time to apply and be interviewed. Thanks to fellow councilors for the diligent effort to go through the process.