

CITY OF LEWES
BOARD OF PUBLIC WRKS
EXECUTIVE SESSION AND SPECIAL MEETING
August 4, 2021

The Wednesday, August 4, 2021, executive board meeting of the Lewes Board of Public Works was held at 9:00 A.M. at City Hall Council Chambers.

1. WELCOME, CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Lee called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

2. ROLL CALL

Board Members:

D. Preston Lee P.E.
A. Thomas Owens
Richard Nichols
Thomas Panetta
Earl Webb

Ex-Officio Members:

Theodore Becker, Mayor
Austin Calaman, Interim General Manager
Michael Hoffman, Legal Counsel

Others Present:

Sharon Sexton, BPW
Nick Roth, Cape Gazette
Kimberley Bellere, BPW
Robert Kennedy, Ratepayer
Laura Oakley, BPW
Robert Barnes, BPW
Josh Gritton, BPW
Madeleine Nichols, Ratepayer
Kristina Keller, BPW
Charles O'Donnel, GMB
Suzanne Powell, BPW
Emmett Foraker, BPW
Eric Wharton, BPW
Elizabeth Owen, Ratepayer
Chris Parsons, BPW
Richard

3. ADJOURN TO THE EXECUTIVE SESSION

ACTION: *President Lee made a motion to adjourn to Executive Session, Mr. Nichols seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

Board entered Executive Session at 9:02 A.M.

ACTION: *Mr. Owens made a motion to return to open session, and Mr. Webb seconded the motion which passed unanimously.*

Returned to open session at 12:08 P.M.

4. "Open forum/general discussion of the candidates for the General Manager position and possible action on selection of General Manager." INFORMATION/DISCUSSION/ACTION (D. Preston Lee P.E.)

President Lee stated that the Board is here to discuss the selection of General Manager position of the BPW.

Mr. Panetta requested the number of participants on zoom. Josh Gritton, BPW, responded that there were 11 participants.

ACTION: *Mr. Owen motioned to recommend offer the position to Austin Calaman for the position of General Manager of Lewes BPW. Mr. Panetta seconded, which passed unanimously.*

DISCUSSION: Mr. Owen stated that both candidates were excellent, and this was a difficult decision to make. Mr. Owen continued that Mr. Calaman has the ability to grow into the position, core knowledge of BPW now and does not need to learn about what the BPW does, and Mr. Calaman does a tremendous job. Mr. Owen stated the Mr. Calaman has a good relationship with staff, a concern for Mr. Owen. Mr. Owen believes that the BPW needs a good staff relationship, considering the BPW only has 17 employees, and needs a leader that knows the staff and what they can do.

Mr. Webb supports Mr. Calaman and is best person for the job, has a relationship with employees, and that a relationship with the employees is important. Mr. Webb stated that he has seen the relationship between Mr. Calaman and others outside of BPW such as city council and it is impressive. Mr. Webb stated that the growth he has seen Mr. Calaman is impressive and believes he will continue to grow. Mr. Webb congratulated Mr. Calaman.

Mr. Nichols supports the nomination of Mr. Calaman to be general manager. Mr. Nichols stated that Mr. Calaman's enthusiasm energy and continuity that he provides will benefit the BPW for many years to come.

Mr. Panetta stated that he also supports Mr. Calaman. Mr. Panetta concurs with all that has been said and with his four years on the Board, there have been challenges and projects and that Mr. Calaman took hold of grips to be involved. Mr. Panetta stated the amount Mr. Calaman has learned and contributes to each of these projects is a testament to his ability. Mr. Panetta

stated that from a temperament perspective, he has never seen Mr. Calaman angry, no matter the challenging situation his goal is to resolve and understand the issue. Mr. Panetta states that no one can ask for any more from a General Manager/CEO. Mr. Panetta stated that Mr. Calaman's interaction with the staff will be a fresh air to the future life of the BPW.

President Lee agreed with everything the Board has said. President Lee stated he has seen Mr. Calaman grow. When the BPW hired as the Assistant General Manager his resume did not have much experience but did have a strong letter from a professor. The recommendation letter was enthusiastic and stated the BPW would be making a mistake for not hiring Mr. Calaman. President Lee stated that in past five years Mr. Calaman has grown amazingly and his mentor Mr. Gordon did an excellent job bringing him along and knows the intricacies of how the BPW works. President Lee stated that Mr. Calaman is well like by the staff. President Lee stated that Mr. Calaman has earned the job and will benefit the ratepayers.

Mr. Panetta stated that Mr. Gordon did a great job of mentoring and hopes that Mr. Calaman will do the same moving forward for the new assistant general manager. Mr. Panetta stated that this is key in our industry and the BPW should thank Mr. Gordon for his years of service.

Mayor Becker stated that the city is very supportive and looking forward to working with Mr. Calaman.

Mr. Calaman stated his appreciation.

ACTION: *President Lee called for a vote to name Austin Calaman General Manager of BPW, which passed unanimously.*

5. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Mr. Robert Kennedy, ratepayer, stated that he was happy to see Mr. Calaman selected and wished him the best.

6. CALL TO THE PRESS

None

7. ADJOURNMENT

ACTION: *Mr. Owen made a motion to adjourn; Mr. Nichols seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.*

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sharon Sexton
Administrative Assistant