



To: Town Council
Town Clerk

Fr: Paul Bockelman
Town Manager

Dt: July 9, 2019

Re: Director of Senior Services Appointment

With this memorandum, simultaneously sent to the Town Council and filed with the Town Clerk, I refer the appointment of Mary Beth Ogulewicz as the Director of Senior Services in accordance with Section 2.11(a) of the Amherst Home Rule Charter.

About Mary Beth Ogulewicz:

Mary Beth Ogulewicz will bring a broad breadth of education and experience as the Town's new Director of Senior Services. She is a practicing attorney and licensed clinical social worker who has been working in the field of elder care.

Currently, Mary Beth is an associate in the law firm of Morrison Mahoney, LLP and concentrates her practice in the area of mental health law. She represents hospitals, long-term care facilities, medical providers, non-profits, families and individuals.

Mary Beth is a certified mindfulness instructor and yoga teacher and a member of the Hampden County Commission on the Status of Women.

Prior to joining private practice, Mary Beth worked in the Hampden County District Attorney's Office for 18 years as a criminal prosecutor trying hundreds of cases including homicide, sexual assault, child abuse, and elder abuse. She began her legal career as a law clerk to the justices of the Superior Court.

Mary Beth has a unique combination of legal skills honed through years of practice combined with a social work understanding of the interconnectedness of the medical, mental health, and legal systems. She impressed the interview team and me with her passion for service developed through her legal work and through direct personal experience advocating for her aging parents.

Mary Beth will be a strong addition to the Town's management team and is prepared to take on the leadership of the Town's senior center.

Here are two interesting articles she has written:

<https://firedupzine.com/2018/11/10/no-freedom-on-the-4th-of-july-by-mary-beth-ogulewicz/>

<https://www.gazettenet.com/Archives/2013/05/ogulewicz-hg-051513>

About the Process:

When Director of Senior Services Nancy Pagano announced her retirement, I established a Director of Senior Services Screening Committee. The Committee was chaired by Health Director Julie Federman, and included Human Resources Director Evelyn Rivera-Riffenburg, Council on Aging chair Rosemary Kofler, LSSE Director Barb Bilz, and Kathy Bowler who is the Director of Member Services for the Massachusetts Councils on Aging – a nonprofit association of 350 councils on aging and senior centers. The Committee received 28 applications and forwarded two finalists to the Town Manager. One candidate withdrew, accepting a position in another community. I interviewed the remaining candidate. After reviewing the applications, considering the interview, meeting and discussing the applicant and applicant pool with the screening committee, and determining the merit of the candidates, I offered the position to Ms. Ogulewicz and she accepted. I now refer the appointment to the Town Council as required by the Town Charter.

Background Information on Town Council's Role:

Below are relevant sections of the Charter for your review.

Section 3.3(a) of the Amherst Home Rule Charter ("Charter") states:

- (a) Town Staff: Except as otherwise provided by this Charter, the Town Manager shall appoint, based upon merit alone, all department heads. All appointments of department heads shall be subject to the provisions of Section 2.11. The Town Manager shall provide for the use and composition of search committees for department heads.

Section 2.11(a) of the Charter states:

- (a) Department Heads: The Town Manager shall refer to the Town Council and simultaneously file with the Town Clerk, the name of each person the Town Manager desires to appoint as a Town department head. Appointment of a department head made by the Town Manager shall become effective on the 14th day after the date on which notice of the proposed appointment was filed with the Town Clerk unless approved or rejected by a majority of the full Town Council within the 14 days.

Suggested Motions:

Below are motions the Council may wish to consider:

MOVED to approve the appointment of Mary Beth Ogulewicz Director of Senior Services.

Attachment: Mary Beth Ogulewicz Cover Letter and Resume