

Town of Norfolk
Norfolk Town Board Special Meeting
April 5, 2022

The Norfolk Town Board held a Special Meeting on Tuesday, April 5, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Norfolk Town Hall.

Present: Supervisor Charles Pernice, Deputy Supervisor Richard Bump, Councilman Donald Purvis, Councilwoman Jean Gang, and Councilman Paul Paige. Town Justice George Grubee was also in attendance.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Supervisor Pernice called the meeting to order. Purpose of the meeting was to consider making an appointment to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Town Justice Stephanie Wilcox.

Supervisor Pernice then clarified what had occurred to date:

- “On March 29, 2022 I was notified by Council Member Gang that she wanted to hold a Special Meeting and appoint a candidate that the Norfolk Democratic Committee had found”.
- “Council Members Paige and Purvis supported the Special Meeting for that purpose.”
- “Town Law states the Town Supervisor may, on his or her own, call a Special Meeting at any time by giving the other Town Board Members at least two days written notice specifying the time and place of the meeting.” “Alternatively, if two Town Board Members submit a written request, the Town Supervisor must schedule a Special Meeting within 10 days of the request.”
- “I decided to hold the meeting on 4/5/2022, the day Council Members Gang, Purvis and Paige wanted.” “Day 7 of that 10 day window.” “This was done to facilitate the appointee to join the newly elected or appointed Justice School which was to begin on 4/6/2022.”

Supervisor Pernice then recapped what had gone wrong in this process:

- “On March 29th, the day I learned of a 2nd candidate (I had previously been told Derek Stevenson had a petition circulating) I had 2 phone conversations with Matt Chivers.” “Matt is the Special Counsel to the Town and Village Courts for the 4th Judicial District.” “The first call was at 9:57am on 3/29/22 and he was simply replying to an email that I had sent the week before looking for information on when the spring Judge Class was going to be.” “The second conversation was when he called me at 4:10pm and said “My, things move fast in Norfolk, this morning you didn’t have a Judge and this afternoon you do.”
- “Someone had called the 4th Judicial District and told them this appointment was a done deal and they needed to register a person in the spring Judge School.”
- “When that call was made to the 4th Judicial District on March 29th, no Special Meeting had been called to consider appointing anyone to the vacant Judge position.”
- “The one thing I want to do as the Town Supervisor is to be 100% transparent to the community.” “I was elected to serve the residents of all parties in the Town of Norfolk and not any one political party.”
- “My goal was to have both candidates appear in front of the Town Board at the very least, and let them address the Board in public.” “It didn’t seem fair to me to hear from one prospective candidate when in fact, we have two.”
- “Having said that, I would like to make the first motion of the evening.” “I would like to make a motion that the Town Board remove itself from any semblance of partisanship and appoint neither of the two candidates, thereby, allowing the voters of Norfolk to make that decision in November on Election Day.

*Motion for the Town Board to remove itself from any semblance of partisanship and appoint neither of the two candidates for Town Justice was made by Supervisor Pernice with second by Deputy Supervisor Bump. Roll call vote was as follows:

Supervisor Pernice	Aye	Councilman Purvis	Nay
Deputy Supervisor Bump	Aye	Councilman Paige	Nay
		Councilwoman Gang	Nay

*Motion was not approved by vote of 2 Ayes and 3 Nays.

CANDIDATE INTRODUCTIONS/DICUSSION:

Supervisor Pernice invited the candidates to introduce themselves.

- Candidate Jill Breit introduced herself and addressed the board and attendees. There was discussion.
- Candidate Derek Stevenson introduced himself and addressed the board and attendees. There was discussion.

TOWN JUSTICE GRUBEE COMPENSATION

Supervisor Pernice noted that Town Justice Grubee has been doing extra work since Town Justice Stephanie Wilcox’s resignation January 5, 2022 and recommended that he be compensated accordingly.

*Decision to compensated Town Justice Grubee for the extra work he’s done in February and March was approved with a motion by Supervisor Pernice and Deputy Supervisor Bump. All in Favor - Carried

*Motion to appoint Jill Breit as Town Justice (04/05/2022 – 12/31/2022) was made with a motion by Councilwoman Jean Gang and second by Councilman Paige. Roll call vote was as follows:

Supervisor Pernice	Nay
Deputy Supervisor Bump	Abstained
Councilman Purvis	Aye
Councilman Paige	Aye
Councilwoman Gang	Aye

Motion approved by vote of 3 Ayes, 1 Nays and 1 Abstention.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Town Justice Grubee asked if the Board would go into executive session. He had matters related to the open court clerk position(s) that he wanted to discuss.

*Decision go into executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person was approved with a motion by Councilman Paige and Councilwoman Gang. All in Favor – Carried

No decisions were made.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with a motion by Councilman Purvis and Councilwoman Gang. All in Favor – Carried

Supervisor – Charles Pernice
Deputy Supervisor – Richard Bump
Councilman – Donald Purvis
Councilwoman – Jean Gang
Councilman – Paul Paige

Dated: April 6, 2022

Jill M. Molnar – Norfolk Town Clerk