

# The METROWEST DAILY NEWS

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## Weston selectmen pick new town manager

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WESTON – Selectmen on Monday chose Leon Gaumond to be their next town manager, as Donna VanderClock retires on Sept. 30 after 13 years on the job and 34 years working for the town.

Gaumond's entire professional career has been in state and local government. Working as town administrator in Sturbridge since 2015, he previously worked for over 10 years as town administrator in West Boylston and for two years as executive secretary of East Longmeadow.

From 1991 to 2002, he was chief of staff and legislative assistant in the office of former state Rep. Paul E. Caron of Springfield.

The other two finalists for Weston town manager were William Chenard and Graham Waters. Gaumond's appointment is subject to successful contract negotiations, according to Kara Fleming, assistant to the town manager.

Chenard has been working in Natick nearly continuously since 1995, having served as the town's acting town administrator, deputy town administrator, director of public works and business manager.

Waters was town manager in Coventry, R.I., until April, and was also a finalist for Wayland's next town administrator this week. Wayland selectmen on Monday chose Louise Miller, currently budget manager at the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority.

Gaumond holds a master's degree in public administration from American International College.

"I believe my strengths to be my strong ability to work well with varied groups of people, to communicate my beliefs to others and to listen to others when they

communicate their beliefs to me,” Gaumond wrote in his application.

Gaumond’s references from former members of the Board of Selectmen in West Boylston and a former state representative said he “has an upbeat personality and a way of helping people find the positives in a difficult situation ... He has/had an excellent relationship with employees, keeps his board informed, and has innovative ideas.”

Gaumond’s references said “he is a hard worker, putting in long hours and attending numerous night meetings and various community events.” He was described as “being a skilled negotiator, a careful budgeter, and a forward-thinking manager ... He is creative, conservative with finances, a go-getter, and a real asset to the town.”

He was also described as “being flexible, easygoing while also professional, firm when needed, nimble, ethical and fair,” plus adept with various forms of communication, including oral, written and social media.

A Town Manager Screening Committee looked at 43 applicants received by the deadline of May 18, and interviewed nine candidates. The five members of the screening committee unanimously selected the three finalists to forward to the selectmen.

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