
3 with decades of experience named finalists for Amherst town manager search



Jim Pistrang, chair of the Amherst Town Manager Screening Committee, Deborah Radway, Human Resources Director and Bernie Lynch consultant wait to present finalists to Amherst Select Board Monday night. *(Diane Lederman/The Republican)*



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AMHERST - The Massachusetts Municipal Association administration and finance director, the assistant town manager of Mansfield, Connecticut and city manager of Montpelier, Vermont have been named the three finalists for town manager.

Paul Bockelman, from the MMA, Maria Capriola from Mansfield and William Fraser from Vermont were **the three** names presented to the Select Board Monday night.

About 70 applied for the position. Of the pool, consultant Bernie Lynch had said he received about 45 or so "good resumes of (candidates) that have municipal experience."

Jim Pistrang who chaired the **Town Manager** Preliminary Search Committee said, "We're very pleased with the quality and depth of the finalists."

Bockelman has been with municipal association since 2004 until now and was the operations manager for the Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association.

He wrote that he thinks the job is a great fit.

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"I mean, who combines professional experience, community leadership, and high social intelligence...with a life long, multi-generational involvement with Ultimate Frisbee."

Capriola has served in the position in Mansfield since 2007 and was the assistant chief administrative officer in Newburyport before that.

She said her "professional and educational experiences have provided me with the ability to utilize both quantitative and qualitative approaches to problem solving,"

Fraser pointed out that he is the chief administrative officer for a \$21 million organization with 100 plus employees and has been in that position for 21 years.

He said he's "very passionate about municipal government" according to his letter of application. He said that the Amherst position "is an excellent match."

All three will be in town for a day-long series of Beginning April 25, and continuing the next two days each candidate will be in town for the day, meeting with various staff members, taking a tour of town and its buildings.

Each day includes a community question and answer sessions at 3 p.m. with Lynch facilitating.

The Select Board will conduct formal interviews at 6 p.m. those days.

The town has been without a permanent manager since John P. Musante died last September.

Assistant Town Manager David Ziomek served as manager until Peter I. Hechenbleikner became temporary manager in February.

The board hopes to make a decision May 5.

The town last conducted a manager search 10 years ago when officials were looking to replace then Town Manager Barry L. Del Castilho who left after 23 years.

The board hired Laurence R. Shaffer who left in 2010. The board hired John P. Musante, the assistant town manager and finance director, without a search. He died in September.

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