
Selectmen give high score to Shrewsbury town manager

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SHREWSBURY - The Board of Selectmen is pleased with the smooth transition and the work Town Manager Kevin J. Mizikar has provided during his first year in the job.

The board has given Mr. Mizikar an overall rating of “Good to Excellent” on his first annual job performance evaluation. After approving the evaluation earlier this month, selectmen this week unanimously voted to increase the town manager’s \$175,000 salary by 2 percent, or \$3,500.

The 2 percent salary adjustment, effective Aug. 30, is the same other non-union personnel will receive. The amount is included in a town meeting appropriation of \$107,449 to cover the salary increases for the 89.8 non-union employees.

Mr. Mizikar, 38, former Leicester town administrator, who lives in Sturbridge with his family, was selected out of about 66 candidates to succeed Daniel J. Morgado, who retired in July 2017 after 20 years in the job.

Each selectman’s individual job review was developed into a composite evaluation. The evaluation contained four categories: Overall Management; Relationship with the Board of Selectmen; Relationship with other Boards, Committees and Town Employees; and Personal and Professional Growth.

The categories were rated on a scale, ranging from Less than Satisfactory to Distinguished. Mr. Mizikar received an overall rating of “Good to Excellent.”

Each member said they are impressed with the seamless transition from Mr. Morgado to Mr. Mizikar.

“Kevin has established himself outside of Dan M’s shadow and served the town well in doing so,” Selectman James Kane wrote.

“Mr. Mizikar approached the transition with both confidence and humility, and quickly established himself as the leader of the organization by working in a very collaborative manner with staff and volunteer bodies,” John I. Lebeaux, chairman of the Board of Selectmen, wrote in his review. “I remain surprised and delighted at the seamlessness of Mr. Mizikar’s entry into the organization. He has set a high bar for himself and I expect he will surpass that standard in the coming years. My suggestion is that he keeps operating in the same fashion in future years as he did in Year One.”

Selectmen also noted the organizational changes Mr. Mizikar has put in place to improve operations and services.

“Mr. Mizikar has used his first year to study the organization and has presented a linear, well thought out plan that will take at least five years to fully roll out,” Selectman Beth Casavant wrote. “I fully support these changes and the way Mr. Mizikar is approaching his position as town manager.”