

**COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021 AT 6:08 p.m.
VIRTUAL MEETING**

Voting Members participating remotely: Chair Joanne Campbell, Alderman Michael Concannon, and Alderman Robert Ferullo.

Non-voting members participating remotely: President Lindsay Higgins, Alderman Jeffrey Dillon, Alderman Darlene Mercer-Bruen, Alderman Joseph Demers, Alderman Edward Tedesco, and Alderman Richard Gately

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Reading of previous meeting minutes: Motion made by Alderman Concannon and seconded by Alderman Ferullo to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 7, 2020; Roll call – Alderman Concannon, aye; Alderman Ferullo, aye; Chairman Campbell, aye; all in favor, 3-0.

Appointment of Laurence R. Rideout and Emily A. Lipsett to the Board of Trustees of the Woburn Public Library Corporation: Chairman Campbell said the committee received letters from Mr. Rideout and Dr. Lipsett. She said this is the first time the Personnel Committee has met using a virtual format and it is a little different. She asked Mr. Rideout to tell the committee about himself. Mr. Rideout said he has lived in Woburn for 36 years and he ran a real estate company. He said he was President of the Woburn Public Library Foundation in 2013 when there was an effort to expand and renovate the library. He said that position ceased in 2016 when the library project started. He said the foundation was able to obtain funding for the addition and renovation project and it looks amazing to him. Chairman Campbell asked Mr. Rideout why he is interested in joining the library's board of trustees. Mr. Rideout said he has maintained interest in the library because he has a civic mentality, and the library is more of a community center than an entity that just loans books. He said he became enamored of the process. He said he has stayed out of the day-to-day operations at the library but he did observe the situation was getting volatile. He said the mayor called him and asked him if he was interested in getting things going in the right direction at the library. He said he may not be a Harvard graduate, but he is easy to worth with. Chairman Campbell read a portion of the letter Mr. Rideout sent to the committee and asked how Mr. Rideout would appoint the right people into positions on the library. Mr. Rideout said a goal would be to re-engage with library staff. He said there needs to be increased enthusiasm. Chairman Campbell asked if anyone on the committee wished to speak in regard to Mr. Rideout's nomination. Alderman Concannon said he has known Mr. Rideout for many years and considers him to be a friend. He said he is aware of Mr. Rideout's efforts with the Host Lions Club. He said he is familiar with what Mr. Rideout accomplished on the library foundation and thinks he will be a tremendous asset to the library board of trustees. Alderman Ferullo said he also knows Mr. Rideout and echoes Alderman Concannon's comments. Chairman Campbell asked Mr. Rideout how he feels about the trustees being responsible for the trust funds left to the library. Mr. Rideout replied there needs to transparency and oversight. He said he thinks the board has to show that it cares. Motion made by Alderman Concannon and seconded by Alderman Ferullo to allow any member of the council not on the committee to address the appointment of Mr. Rideout; Roll call – Alderman Concannon, aye; Alderman Ferullo, aye;

Chairman Campbell, aye; all in favor, 3-0. Alderman Gately said he knows Mr. Rideout has done a lot of great work on behalf of the city and the library. Alderman Gately said Mr. Rideout is a confidant of the mayor. He said it will be good to have Mr. Rideout on board. He said Mr. Rideout has done great work with the Woburn Housing Authority. Alderman Dillon said he has known Mr. Rideout for years. He said he can't think of a better person to join the library board. He said the city is very fortunate Mr. Rideout is volunteering. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said she echoes the comments of the previous speakers. She said she appreciates Mr. Rideout's volunteerism. She said she knows he is going to be a great asset to the board. President Higgins said she knows Mr. Rideout to be a very responsive person. She said she thinks he is the right choice for a position as a trustee. Chairman Campbell said she is also very excited. She said Mr. Rideout has done a lot for the city. She said she is happy Mr. Rideout is volunteering for the board. She said if the committee makes a recommendation tonight, it will be confirmed by the entire City Council at its meeting next Tuesday. Chairman Campbell welcomed Dr. Lipsett and asked her about her degree and appellation. Dr. Lipsett said she is a doctor of history. She said she cannot be of any help medically, but she does have the skill set to help with the library. She said she moved to Woburn nine years ago. She said the two things that attracted her and her family to their home on Arlington Road were the proximity to Horn Pond and the proximity to the library. She said she has been a loyal and active library patron. She said she is a high school teacher in Billerica. She said she is the parent of two children, a 7-year-old and a 2-year-old. She said she thinks she can bring a new and different perspective to the library board. She said she cares very deeply about the immigrant community. She said she sees the potential of attracting people whose second language is English to the library. Chairman Campbell asked Dr. Lipsett about the board of trustees' role as the custodian of the library's trust fund money. Dr. Lipsett said she echoes Mr. Rideout's answer about the importance of transparency. She said she knows that is a big concern. She said there has to be a willingness to engage with the community. Alderman Concannon said he does not know Dr. Lipsett as well as he knows Mr. Rideout, but he can confirm her commitment to the city. He said he thinks she is going to be a great addition to the library board of trustees. Alderman Ferullo said he worked with Dr. Lipsett in his role as police chief and he is aware of her commitment. He said she will give a 1,000-percent effort to the board. Motion made by Alderman Concannon and seconded by Alderman Ferullo to allow any member of the council not on the committee to address the appointment of Dr. Lipsett; Roll call – Alderman Concannon, aye; Alderman Ferullo, aye; Chairman Campbell, aye; all in favor, 3-0. Alderman Dillon said he has had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Lipsett and saw how she interacts with children. He said he thinks she will be a great addition to the board. Alderman Mercer-Bruen said Dr. Lipsett's resume speaks for itself. She said her energy and commitment to the community is obvious. She said she thinks Dr. Lipsett understands how important it is for the library board to accept input from the community. She said she looks forward to supporting Dr. Lipsett's nomination when the City Council votes next week. Alderman Gately said he does not know Dr. Lipsett, but said her resume looks fantastic. He said he has nothing but hope for the future of the library. President Higgins said Dr. Lipsett will do an excellent job. She said Dr. Lipsett is approachable, friendly and professional. Motion made by Alderman Concannon and seconded by Alderman Ferullo to return to the regular order of business; Roll call – Alderman Concannon, aye; Alderman Ferullo, aye; Chairman Campbell, aye; all in favor, 3-0. Motion made by Alderman Concannon and seconded by Alderman Ferullo that the appointment of Mr. Rideout and Dr. Lipsett "ought to pass;" Roll call – Alderman Concannon, aye; Alderman

Ferullo, aye; Chairman Campbell, aye; approved, 3-0. Chairman Campbell said the committee's recommendation will be sent to the full City Council for a vote on March 2.

Motion made by Alderman Concannon and seconded by Alderman Ferullo to adjourn;
Roll call – Alderman Concannon, aye; Alderman Ferullo, aye; Chairman Campbell, aye; all in favor, 3-0. Chairman Campbell adjourned the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Attest: _____
Gordon Vincent
Clerk of Committees