

SC Campaign Finance Board Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2020 - 9:30 AM
via Conference Call

Participants on call: Lisa Scott-Chair, Honorable John Toomey, Adrian Fassett, Dan Dubois, Steve Randazzo, Gina Popovich

1. Call to Order: 9:30AM

2. Public Comments: None

3. Review/approve May 12, 2020 meeting minutes:

Motion by **Honorable John Toomey**; seconded by **Adrian Fassett**.

4. Discussion:

Lisa Scott – Yeah, okay. Dan’s not on? Okay. All right. Why don’t we get started then. So, Steve, glad to hear your voice, it’s been a couple of weeks.

Steve Randazzo – Yeah.

Lisa Scott - And a busy time for all, I’m sure.

Steve Randazzo – Yeah.

Lisa Scott - Before we get to the business at hand, how’s the baby?

Steve Randazzo - Oh, he’s so good, so good and developed a personality, he laughs, he smiles. All the things that you want your, you know, your newborn to do.

Lisa Scott - Yeah and he’s gonna run for governor at some point; right.

Steve Randazzo – Oh my, this is a crazy business. I don’t know if I’m gonna introduce it to him or not.

*(*Laughter*)*

Lisa Scott - Okay. Well, good to hear, I’m glad about that.

So, we’ll go through the agenda if that’s okay with everyone. So, there are no public comments; I presume. Gina, you didn’t get anything, right?

Gina Popovich – No.

Lisa Scott - Okay, okay.

And the last time we actually had a formal conference call with minutes was on May 12th and Gina had sent those minutes and they were sent around a while ago. Does anybody have any concerns about the minutes or somebody move to accept?

Honorable John Toomey - Yeah, I'll move to accept the minutes.

Lisa Scott – Okay, Jack and Adrian?

Adrian Fassett - I'll second.

Lisa Scott – Adrian, okay. Thank you.

So, guys, why don't you give a little feedback on the interviewing process.

Adrian Fassett – Well, I thought the interview process went well even though we zoomed it turned out better than we thought. You could get a feel for the individuals. I think from –

Dan Dubois – Hi, It's Dan.

Lisa Scott - Okay. Hold on, Adrian, one sec. Dan, what we're just doing is starting to talk about how the interviewing process went so Adrian was just starting to give some comments.

Dan Dubois – Okay, great.

Lisa Scott – Okay. Sorry, Adrian.

Adrian Fassett – So I was just saying that the interviews, we did Zoom interviews and they actually went better than we thought. You could get a feel for individuals using Zoom. I felt we had some very good candidates, great qualifications. I thought it went quite well and I felt good about the process up until this point.

Lisa Scott – Okay. Jack?

Honorable John Toomey – Yeah, I felt the same way. I was pleasantly surprised. I thought it was actually convenient, I never thought I'd be saying that, to do the Zoom, I thought the Board was comfortable with it and I thought the candidates seemed rather comfortable and I thought it was a fair process, was a good process and, you know, we... I guess each one lasted 20 to 30 minutes. We gave them every opportunity to explain

their qualifications and background and then we talked after and made, you know, some preliminary, you know, findings on what we had and we're ready to go forward.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, we are hoping to have two sort of semifinal interviews, we hope next week. It's two candidates, they've already responded that they hopefully will be available. And what we're talking about is, depending on the situation, I still have to be really careful about in-persons but I have gone to a small board meeting, which was held outside, socially distanced, so we were noodling around the idea of trying to do something outside in the Hauppauge area and, if not, Gina, if we get back to you if we could use the Clerk's conference room cause it's big enough.

Gina Popovich – Oh yeah, sure.

Lisa Scott – If there are only four of us you know, I could still come and do that.

Gina Popovich – Yeah, that's up to you but it's here if you need it.

Lisa Scott – Okay, okay. And next week is not a committee or a General session week so hopefully...

Gina Popovich – Next ...well...

Lisa Scott – It's only been this week, you're not gonna do it again next week.

Gina Popovich – No, next week is committee week and then we have a General meeting on the 23rd. But since there are no ...

Lisa Scott – Oh, the two, yeah.

Gina Popovich - Yeah, I know.

Lisa Scott – But those are virtual, I mean, the committees.

Gina Popovich - Right, right. Nobody's gonna be in the building.

Lisa Scott – Right. Okay, okay. And, yeah, I agree with what Adrian and Jack said also about I was originally concerned about the Zoom because I thought it would be kind of stilted and it would be hard to get a feel for the candidates but we all definitely felt the person coming across, I think, which that and the qualifications and a lot of things lead us to narrowing it down to two people. There ...of the seven, two of the ones that, one that we were pretty interested in and the other one that had excellent qualifications both had to withdraw after the Zoom interviews for a variety of reasons so we've gotten in touch

with those people, all of them, and advised and, you know, just giving them the status updates so nobody's left hanging in the air. And, again, we're looking at next week.

I think, you know, if I could make a general statement, you know, we ...we kind of talked amongst ourselves about, yeah, you know, having some ability to verbalize the legal side but we had all agreed back in January, February even, that if needs be you could have an attorney on retainer, you know, if there were issues until things really got up and running. They had to be more cognizant of the finance side. Their, you know, history of work in this field was interesting but we're taking that loosely because there are people who weren't administrators, they were actually users of the systems too.

So, I thought it was really interesting and good. And, so, that's where we're going at this point is doing two more interviews next week of the seven, it's two.

Anything else; Adrian or Jack to add on that angle?

Adrian Fassett - No, that's good.

Honorable John Toomey – That's it.

Lisa Scott - Yep, yeah, okay. Okay. Dan, Steve any questions, concerns, timelines, issues?

Dan Dubois – I just want to say I think it's great that it all worked out well. I don't want to pry too much into your decision-making cause that's your decision-making as a Board but I'm just curious did that include the person that Steve had forwarded from the New York City ...

Lisa Scott – No.

Dan Dubois - Okay.

Lisa Scott – No, cause we had already completed the interviews at that point. We did get in touch with him and just told him very frankly where we were in the thing...

Dan Dubois – Uh-hum.

Lisa Scott – You know, but we have somebody that actually has even more experience than that gentleman does.

Dan Dubois – Oh.

Lisa Scott – So, we want to pursue the two that we got a really good vibe from as well as the qualification side and so that's what we're doing next week.

Dan Dubois – Great.

Lisa Scott – But, you know, we don't shut doors on everybody.

Dan Dubois – Sure.

Lisa Scott – You know, I mean, we're trying to be very careful cause you just don't know where things are gonna go and last-minute changes. We were gonna interview three next week and it turns out one of them had actually just retired within Long Island from a government position and...at the end of last year and is just not gonna be viable. It's just...our goal is not to jump through hoops when we have other candidates that are very intriguing and compelling. So, so that's where we're at right now.

I guess some of the questions I had would be, again, about the recordkeeping on this. So we ... I did set him up on Zoom through the guy at the County IT who told me, you know, how to get into the account but I did all the setting up and I had them recorded and I've saved the recordings and initially I thought we'd have to transcribe and Gina graciously followed up on that but at this point since we have the audio I don't, you know, they're confidential so I don't think we necessarily want ...

Honorable John Toomey - I don't even think we need them, we have the audio, but we don't even need the audio, we heard 'em ourselves and made our decisions.

Lisa Scott – Right, right.

Honorable John Toomey – I definitely wouldn't transcribe it, I mean, that's a waste of, you know, time.

Lisa Scott – Yeah, yeah.

Honorable John Toomey – I mean, save the audios if you wish but, I mean, we're under no obligation to record it.

Lisa Scott – Yeah, yeah. That...I did that more because you never know when, you know, we'd end up being dropped in the middle of it or one person went off or something like that.

Honorable John Toomey - No, it's...no, it's fine that we did it.

Lisa Scott – Yeah, yeah.

Honorable John Toomey - We listened to everybody and, you know, we made our decisions.

Lisa Scott - Right, okay.

And also, then, Jack, because we kinda talked at the May meeting about would you kinda, you know, raise your hand that says anything about General Meeting Law, we had agreed that, I think, because of the State of Emergency and everything else we'll keep going the way we're going so we had a couple of phone calls, like two, beyond the Zoom just to noodle over...now, would I call that executive session; no, because ...

Honorable John Toomey - No, you can't have an executive ...

Lisa Scott - No.

Honorable John Toomey - Executive session can only arise from a meeting. We had no meeting.

Lisa Scott - Right, right. Okay.

Honorable John Toomey - We were talking about with dates and times and how we'll move forward.

Lisa Scott - Right, exactly.

Honorable John Toomey - It was...there was no substance, I mean...

Lisa Scott - Yeah, right, right.

Honorable John Toomey - You know, that time, yeah.

Lisa Scott - Okay.

Honorable John Toomey - But you can't have executive session ...

Lisa Scott - Without excusing yourself.

Honorable John Toomey - You have to have an authorized, advertised meeting and then vote...

Lisa Scott - Um-hum.

Honorable John Toomey - ...the motion to go to executive session and then you go to executive, you know.

Lisa Scott - Okay.

Honorable John Toomey - You just can't meet someplace and say we're in executive session.

Lisa Scott - Okay.

Dan Dubois - I missed a little bit of that conversation cause I had to go on hold for a second but I do know that the Governor extended the Open Meetings Law, Executive Orders. I believe, I'm trying to find a date but ... but it has definitely relaxed a lot of the rules. So, you know, I think you guys are probably in a fine place of...from how you've been operating so far.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, yeah.

Honorable John Toomey - We're fine with that.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, okay, okay. And I think I will delete those audio files eventually but, you know, I'm not putting them anywhere in public view, obviously, or anything like that. But, very, very interesting, I have to say, some of the things we learned from people in, you know, the jobs they're working in and how they approach things. It was fascinating.

So assuming that, and this is more a general Lisa question, so we meet with two people next week, we're extremely interested in both of them, do we then have Patty in Civil Service, you know, ask for references? Do we do that? You know, the more we want to...

Honorable John Toomey - I think, I mean we could check with Civil Service, but it's really, you know, it would be up to us, I mean, they ... I don't know what qualifications they'd be looking into.

I just want to say one thing, Lisa, thank you very much for that article from the Boston Globe. I thought that was ...it's really good that you got it and I enjoyed reading it.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, yeah. So ...

Honorable John Toomey - ...it's our decision on, you know, who we want...

Lisa Scott - Um-hum

Honorable John Toomey - ...good, bad or indifferent. I mean, I don't think there's any minimum Civil Service requirements, if there are, I mean, not that I know of.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, I wasn't quite looking at it from that perspective. It was more that, given, again, my background was in private industry and private business you always dealt with personnel human resources people because you had to tread lightly on what you could ask a reference and, you know, how you approach that because we do want...

Honorable John Toomey - Well, it would be the same as we approached the first seven, I mean, you know, it was, you know, just candid interviews, I mean...I mean, I thought it, you know, it was just common sense, it was, you know, it was fine. I don't think we asked anything you shouldn't of asked.

Lisa Scott - No, no, no, that's, I'm sorry, maybe I didn't speak clearly. When you've narrowed down your candidates then the manager generally will go and touch base with the references that were listed either correspond with them or try to get them on the phone.

In private business, lots of times, references are told they...from their own businesses, that all they can do is confirm employment. I don't know or understand how this works in the public sector.

Honorable John Toomey - I think it's whatever we want to do with it.

Lisa Scott - Yeah. Steve or Dan, do you have any insight in that?

Dan Dubois - I'm not, I don't know, Steve, if you can...could talk to this, I'm not really too familiar with hiring practices and what the requirements are. I mean, I think ...

Honorable John Toomey – The best thing to do is...

Dan Dubois - Go ahead.

Honorable John Toomey - Just check with Civil Service and we'll just keep them apprised of what we're doing...

Lisa Scott – Okay, yeah.

Honorable John Toomey – ...and go from there without, you know...everybody's gonna have an opinion on it so, you know...

Lisa Scott - Yeah.

Honorable John Toomey - ...it's really, it's ultimately what we decide. As we go through the process we can bring Civil Service into the loop and tell them what we're doing, you know...

Lisa Scott - Right, right.

Honorable John Toomey – ...see if they have, you know, what their best practice is but that's about as far as I'd go with that.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, yeah.

Honorable John Toomey - Anytime you have the opportunity to keep Civil Service out, you keep 'em out, it would seem to me, you know ...

Lisa Scott – Oh, yeah, yeah. Yeah. Because I would, by nature, want to speak to, you know, generally a supervisor, a peer or a colleague, you know, I mean, there are a bunch of different ways you approach references. And...

Honorable John Toomey - But that would be what we wanted to ... I mean...

Lisa Scott – Yeah.

Honorable John Toomey - ... you know, not what Civil Service has to do, you know.

Lisa Scott - Yeah.

Honorable John Toomey - How we wanna ... how we wanna go about our job of hiring these persons.

Lisa Scott – Yeah. Adrian, any thoughts on that?

Adrian Fassett – No, I agree with Jack. I agree with Jack.

Lisa Scott – Okay, all right. So we'll keep rolling on that, that'll all happen next week. Open Meetings; Dan answered about the relaxed rules for the time being.

Dan Dubois - I just checked, by the way, it's until July 9th.

Lisa Scott – Okay, okay.

Dan Dubois - If it doesn't get extended again.

Lisa Scott – Yeah, okay. All right. And that's separate and distinct from the general state of emergency; this is the one that was specifically relaxing the Open Meeting rules. Right?

Dan Dubois - Correct. It was an Executive Order on the Open Meetings Law.

Lisa Scott - I can't keep track of Executive Orders.

*(*Laughter*)*

Dan Dubois – There's so many of them.

Lisa Scott - And then they have to be rewritten cause, you know, clearly you have to move quickly and things need to be reorganized.

Okay. All right, so that was number seven. What did I do here? Boy, did I screw up the numbers on this, on the agenda. Sorry about that.

*(*Laughter*)*

Okay. So I would hope then that next week and the week after we are meeting with these two candidates, seeing if there's anything else we need to do on that angle. Checking ultimately with Patty, checking references, whatever. So we probably wouldn't meet until the week of the 29th, I would guess. Right? Jack, Adrian?

Honorable John Toomey - I guess so, I'm not looking at the calendar.

Lisa Scott - Yeah, cause we were hoping to meet with both candidates next week, the week of the 15th.

Honorable John Toomey - We'll meet with both of them then schedule a meeting after that.

Lisa Scott – Yeah, okay. And it's just, because it's housekeeping, we actually hadn't submitted or are we...I don't know, I mean, I haven't, I don't know about you gentlemen, the...any invoices over to the Comptroller's Office. In fact ... and all that. And, again, those would only relate to meetings that had minutes because that's what we present and the attendee list.

Honorable John Toomey - ...and do them at one of our interviews, you know.

Lisa Scott - When we're in-person, yeah, good idea.

Honorable John Toomey – Yeah, I don't have anything to file. I don't have these forms anyway, so I don't have...you know.

Lisa Scott - Okay, all right, yeah and I have a couple. But again, Gina, we'll get in touch with you on that, if you could, maybe in advance, make some copies of stuff for us.

Gina Popovich – Sure.

Honorable John Toomey - Make copies, get the date and the information on them and we can ...

Lisa Scott - Yeah, okay. That's terrific. All right. Anything else? Adrian and Jack, you and I will have to chat on a call. Actually, well, we'll email first to set up the dates.

Honorable John Toomey - ...set up the date and times and places. Yeah, absolutely.

Lisa Scott – Yeah. Yeah, we'll get started with the schedule part first and then make sure we have a home for the – the gathering. Okay, and again, Jack, I mean, sorry, Steve or Dan any questions or concerns or anything?

Steve Randazzo - None for me.

Dan Dubois - None for me.

Lisa Scott – Okay, all right. And, Gina, thank you, again, for everything. So, I guess, we can adjourn.

Gina Popovich - Have a good weekend, everyone.

Dan Dubois - We'll be in touch.

Lisa Scott - All right, thanks a lot. Bye-bye.

Gina Popovich – Bye.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 23rd 2020 at 9:30am

*(*The meeting was adjourned at 9:49am*)*