

Health, Education and Welfare Committee

Chairman Medeiros, Brodeur, Seaboyer,
Forbes, Infurna
Attending: Conn, McAteer-Margolis,
Mortimer, Tramontozzi, Wright, Boisselle
In attendance: Mayor Robert J. Dolan,
Veterans Advisory Board Chairman Robert
Driscoll, Human Resources Director
Marianne Long

Health, Education and Welfare Committee called to order by Chairman Infurna at 7:34 p.m.

Alderman Infurna motions to open Public Participation, 2nd by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor. No one comes forward. Alderman Infurna motions to close Public Participation, 2nd by Alderman Seaboyer. All in favor.

Order No. 09-241, APPOINTMENT Of: Natalee Anne Webb, 448 Pleasant St., Melrose, MA To: Veterans Agent Expiration: April 1, 2010

Alderman Infurna moves to recommend, 2nd by Alderman Seaboyer.

Alderman Infurna asks if Ms. Long, Mayor Dolan and Mr. Driscoll could come forward with the candidate.

Mr. Driscoll thanks Mayor Dolan for the opportunity to introduce Natalee Webb to the Board of Aldermen. Natalee is an Air Force veteran who broke barriers in the Air Force as the first female Aircraft Mechanic assigned to the 18th AGS at Kadena AFB, Japan. Her background includes banking and administration. Her volunteer work with veterans is exemplary. She is the founder of the Veterans Memorial, the only 11K in America that honors Veterans and Active Duty members each November 11 and until recently she has served as the Chairman of Stoneham's Memorial Day Parade. He says Natalee will meet tomorrow with the Lieutenant Governor for an hour-long discussion about veteran affairs in the state of Massachusetts.

Ms. Webb says she comes from a family of veterans and serving veterans is her passion. She thanks Mayor Dolan for appointing her to this position – it's her dream job.

Mayor Dolan says he is very pleased with what the Board of Aldermen is committed to with respect to veterans. The Veterans Advisory Board has addressed very complex needs of veterans since 9/11 and has done a remarkable job managing their needs on a voluntary basis. His goal has been to have a full-time Veteran's Agent at a Department Head level. It is this Board of Aldermen's commitment to funding that position in this budget. The interviewing committee included Jeff Ugino, Bob Driscoll and Marianne Long. They were given the task of choosing the best candidate and their recommendation is Natalee Webb. He asks the Board of Aldermen for their support.

Alderman Brodeur says her qualifications are exceptional. He says navigating bureaucracy can be a demoralizing experience. Ms. Webb says she has dealt with Air Force regulations and Article 15. She has been in stressful situations and confidential situations. Alderman Brodeur says a lot more has been asked of the men and women in

the armed services since 2003, causing stress on their families. He is glad to see that Ms. Webb has experience in dealing with all of that and he is very happy to see her come on board.

Alderman Infurna welcomes Ms. Webb and wishes her the best. She says it's exciting to have a full-time Veterans Agent in the City.

Alderman Conn asks if the state offers training for the veterans' benefits application. Ms. Webb says yes, and in anticipation of accepting this position she has taken half of the training and will complete it next month. Alderman Conn asks how she envisions running the office and if she will have set office hours. Ms. Webb says she is reachable 24/7. She is committed to the veterans. Alderman Conn asks if she will work part-time doing administrative duties and part-time outreach. Ms. Webb says yes. Alderman Conn asks if she is currently a member of any veterans groups. Ms. Webb says she belongs to the Elks and AmVets of Melrose, the VFW Post 620 in Stoneham, and is an auxiliary member of Stoneham's American Legion Post 115. Alderman Conn asks the position's level and step. Ms. Long says it is Level 11, Step 3.

Alderman Wright says he also works for a municipality and there is a listserv of people that is very useful. He isn't sure if there is one for veterans but says it is worth checking into with other veterans agents.

On the motion to recommend, All in favor.

Alderman Brodeur motions to adjourn, 2nd by Alderman Infurna. All in favor.

Health, Education and Welfare Committee adjourns at 7:51 p.m.

There are no orders in the Protection and License or Public Works Committees to be acted on.

Maribeth Harrington
Clerk of Committees