

TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

TO: Mayor, Members of the Town Council **DATE:** April 3, 2013
FROM: ^{GT} Garrett Toy, Town Manager
SUBJECT: Discussion/consideration of a process to select a candidate to fill the seat being vacated by Councilmember Hartwell effective April 9, 2013

Recommendation

Discuss and consider the selection and appointment process to fill the seat vacated by Councilmember Hartwell effective April 9, 2013.

Discussion

Attached is a letter from Councilmember Hartwell indicating her intent to resign effective April 9, 2013. With her upcoming resignation, the Council should discuss the process by which it wants to fill this future vacancy. The following are options to consider:

- Appoint a replacement from the current list of candidates.
- Open the process up for additional candidates with a deadline by which to submit their applications. Ask existing candidates if they would like to resubmit their application for consideration. Schedule a special meeting to interview any new candidates. The Council would need to determine if they want to re-interview existing candidates. The Council has already adopted an interview and selection process which would be applied to any new applications received. Select and appoint a candidate to fill the seat at the next scheduled Council meeting.
- Keep the seat vacant until the November 2013 general election.

Fiscal Impact

None at this time.

Dear Mayor, Council, Staff and Community,

I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve such a progressive town that embodies community and courage. When I was elected nearly four years ago, I was not really sure of what I had gotten myself into. We didn't even realize until election night that we had created a Green Party majority council. Our council stands as a demonstration of the 10 key values held by our Party, and we put those principles to work at every given opportunity.

One of my first votes was to financially support the now-lauded Marin Energy Authority in its hard won push away from procurement of dirty energy by PG&E. Giving Sleepy Hollow a vote on our regional Fire Board allowed representation for partnership and a foundation for the admission of Ross. Working on the newly renamed Zero Waste Committee to write a hauling contract was a steep and challenging opportunity that put our values into practice in a binding contract. Our set goals and benchmarks of reaching a 94% diversion away from the landfill is unheard of anywhere else in the United States.

Negotiation with bargaining units gave me the opportunity to show that we value our staff and will fight to work on the real causes of budget shortfalls. Bringing Cittaslow certification to Fairfax recognizes many years of service by a great many electeds and active citizens and acts as a guide for the future to retain our unique character and rich history. It is with great gratitude that I thank the voters of Fairfax for voting to approve a sales tax that will allow us to keep vital town services intact.

While Mayor, I was honored to speak at the Green Party Presidential nomination Convention and give hope and inspiration to Green throughout the country. I also had the pleasure of cutting the ribbon at the new Good Earth store and serving on the steering committee to bring Fairfax its very first Streets for People. Fairfax received the Best Town in Marin for the 4th year in a row because of the joyful spirit of our community and its surrounding natural beauty. I am proud to have played a role in bringing us a new farmers market, and hope for one last fun community project that marks our celebration of creativity and beauty.

I am heading home to Minnesota, the land of my childhood, to recreate the lifestyle that inspired the respect I have for community, resourcefulness, and conservation that has guided my service. I need to be closer to my moms, care for some beautiful land, raise some goats, and give my daughter a year she will never forget.

It is a bittersweet departure, for Fairfax has also become my home. I respectfully and even somewhat tearfully tender my resignation effective April 9th, 2013. I have no doubt I am leaving Fairfax in the finest of hands: Our staff and council are extraordinary people, dedicated to working hard to maintain our delightful hamlet and, most importantly, to be the conduit to a future we all know we need.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pam Hartwell', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Pam Hartwell