



TOWN OF ELIZABETH

CHRIS LOWE/INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

To: Honorable Mayor and Board of Trustees
From: Chris Lowe, Interim Town Administrator
Date: September 3, 2026

Subject: Discussion regarding renewal appointment of Municipal Judge

Background: The Board, in its upcoming agenda item discussion at its last meeting, briefly discussed reviewing the appointment process for Municipal Judge and asked that this discussion be put on the agenda for possible further action.

Analysis: Obviously, this is a Board appointment, so staff take no position on how the Board should proceed. However, generally I can say that it is not uncommon and is often healthy to review the marketplace for professional services like those you receive from your municipal judge. This type of exploration of the market does not necessarily coincide with any negative inference that the current occupant of the office is performing poorly or that there is any dissatisfaction with the performance of that service. It is always good public policy to allow competition for services on occasion, so I do not feel that it is inappropriate to review these positions to ensure that you are comfortable with your appointments. The current Municipal Judge would be more than welcome to participate in the reappointment process if that is the direction the Board chooses to follow.

If the Board desires to explore this option, staff would begin the process of developing an RFP for Judicial Services and would begin advertising for a selection process.

Staff Recommendation: Staff has no recommendation and will take direction from the Board on how to proceed.