

# Dayton Appoints Suter As New Town Counsel

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*By Jeremy Hunt*

DAYTON - With a knack for working with governing boards and an affinity for Dayton, Lynn Suter should find herself right at home as the new town attorney.

“I have a soft spot for that area and those people,” she said. “I enjoy the collaborative process. That’s a comfortable environment for me.”

Dayton Town Council appointed Suter, an attorney with Lenhart Obenshain PC in Harrisonburg, to the post last week.

Next Monday’s council meeting will be her first in the role, officials said.

Suter replaces longtime town attorney Jay Litten, who stepped down in May citing possible conflicts of interest because he holds the same position in neighboring Bridgewater.

Suter, 48, lives near Dayton in Rockingham County and has lived in the area for most of her life.

An Eastern Mennonite High School alumna, Suter graduated from James Madison University in 1983.

She then attended Washington and Lee University Law School, earning a juris doctorate with honors in 1986.

Suter practices business law and her professional experience includes representing large corporations and small businesses.

She also serves on a number of local boards, including the board of directors of the Blue Ridge Community College Educational Foundation and Eastern Mennonite School’s board of directors, of which she is chairwoman.

Dayton officials noted Suter’s experience and intelligence as reasons for choosing her over other candidates.

“I’m very impressed with her abilities,” Mayor L.J. Purcell said. “She’ll make a great asset to the town.”

Vice Mayor Donna McCormick said Suter would help unite the Town Council, which has often been divided on issues since the newest members took office in January.

“I think more than any other lawyer ... she can bring us together as a council,” McCormick said.

Suter said she’s aware of the struggles the council has had, but she isn’t deterred by them.

“Whatever issues we face, we’ll face together,” she said.



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