

Town of Amherst  
Minutes of the Select Board

May 1, 2018 – 2:00 p.m. – Town Room, Town Hall

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Members present: Chair Doug Slaughter; Alisa Brewer, Connie Kruger, Andy Steinberg, Jim Wald  
Members absent: None  
Staff present: Town Manager Paul Bockelman  
Other present: Scott Merzbach, Daily Hampshire Gazette

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Meeting called to order by Mr. Slaughter at 2:06 p.m.

Mr. Slaughter noted that the Special Town Meeting of April 30, 2018 passed Article 1: An Act to Hold Special Election which authorized the Select Board to file Special Legislation.

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed motions that had been drafted by the Town's Attorney.

Ms. Kruger moved, pursuant to the Home Rule Amendment of the Massachusetts Constitution, that the Select Board respectfully requests, on behalf of the Town of Amherst, that State Senator Rosenberg and State Representative Goldstein-Rose file special legislation with the General Court authorizing the holding of a preliminary and special election for the office of Town Council in the form approved under Article 1 of the April 30, 2018 Special Town Meeting warrant, and to include therewith certified copies of the results of the March 27, 2018 Annual Town Election, the new Town Charter, the warrant for the April 30, 2018 Special Town Meeting, and the vote taken under Article 1; and further, to authorize the Town Manager to work with the Town's legislative delegation to provide whatever information as may be needed to facilitate speedy passage of the Act; and further, in connection therewith, to approve, in advance, any changes of form recommended by House or Senate Counsel, including with respect to capitalization, insertion or omission of the words "City known as the Town of" in connection with Amherst as a corporate entity, insertion of numerals instead of descriptions of words, and the like, with the understanding that the Town's goal, as set forth in the Charter and as reflected in the vote of Town Meeting, is to ensure swift passage of the Act.

And further that the Select Board call for a Special Town Election for the office of Town Council to be held on November 6, 2018, with a preliminary election to be held on September 4, 2018, as may be necessary, and in connection therewith, that there shall appear on said election ballot a Town Council of 13 members for terms of two years each, as follows: three members shall be elected at-large; and two members shall be elected from each of five districts, all as provided for in the new Town Charter approved by the voters at the March 27, 2018 Town Election; and further, to acknowledge that the scheduling of such special election is the subject of a petition for special legislation, as approved under Article 1 of the April 30, 2018 Special Town Meeting, that the Board shall monitor the status of such special act and provide information concerning its progress through the legislative process as such information becomes available, and that the Board shall provide for additional information about the special act and its progress to be posted on the Town's website at <https://www.amherstma.gov/>.

And further that the Select Board authorize the Town Clerk to issue nomination papers for the November 6, 2018 Special Election for the office of Town Council, including Councilor-at-Large and District Councilor; and further, to acknowledge that the scheduling of such special election is the subject of a petition for

special legislation, as approved under Article 1 of the April 30, 2018 Special Town Meeting, and that the Board shall monitor the status of such special act and provide information concerning its progress through the legislative process as such information becomes available; and further, to direct the Town Clerk to provide with any nomination papers issued for said election a certified copy of the vote under said Article 1, and a notice that (1) the Select Board is monitoring the status of such special act and will provide information concerning its progress through the legislative process as such information becomes available; and (2) additional information about the special act and its progress will be posted on the Town's website at <https://www.amherstma.gov/>.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Wald and passed unanimously.

Mr. Bockelman apologized to the Board for some poor staff work at the previous night's Town Meeting. The work reflected poorly on the Select Board and he said he bore sole responsibility for making sure things like that don't happen.

Ms. Kruger moved to adjourn at 3:00 p.m. Ms. Brewer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Submitted by: Paul Bockelman, Town Manager

**List of Documents Presented at the Meeting – Available in the Online Packet for Meeting Date**  
Agenda and Draft Motions

Approved by the Select Board: July 23, 2018