

Town of Amherst
Minutes of the Select Board

May 7, 2018 – 6:00 p.m. – Music Room, Amherst Regional Middle School

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; Sonia Aldrich, Comptroller; David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager; Tim Nelson, Fire Chief

Meeting called to order by Mr. Slaughter at 6:04 p.m.

Third Quarter Budget Update

Comptroller Sonia Aldrich presented an update on the Town's finances through the end of March 31, 2018, the end of the Town's third quarter for FY18.

Audit Review

Mr. Steinberg, the Board's representative on the Audit Committee, reported on the Committee's meeting with the Town auditor who had prepared an audit of the Town's finances for FY18. He noted that it was a clean audit and congratulated the Town Manager and the finance staff for excellent work. Mr. Bockelman noted that Comptroller Sonia Aldrich and her staff had worked hard to address all issues raised by the auditor. He noted that the auditors had no comments that needed to be reported and that all issues raised in prior year audits had been addressed.

Appointments Under Transition Provisions of the Audit

Mr. Steinberg proposed that members on boards and committees who have terms expiring June 30th or some other date should be able to serve until they are replaced by the new Town Council. After extensive discussion, Ms. Brewer moved to continue the appointment of committee members with terms expiring on June 30, 2018 until replaced or reappointed by the Town Council, or the member's resignation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wald and it passed unanimously.

Vote and Assign Positions on Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Board members discussed the actions permissible under the Transition Provisions of the Charter and the actions it wanted to recommend to Town Meeting.

After discussion, Ms. Kruger moved to recommend referral of Article 33 – Supplemental Dwelling Unit Zoning Bylaw to the Planning Board however, should the motion to refer fail, that the Select Board supports Article 33. Ms. Brewer seconded the motion and it passed with Chair Slaughter, Ms. Brewer, Ms. Kruger and Mr. Wald in favor and Mr. Steinberg opposed.

Licenses

Ms. Brewer moved to approve the application of Top of the Campus, Inc. to serve all alcoholic beverages at the Life Science Lab S330 on May 9, 2018 from 3:00 – 6:00 p.m., Kimberly McAllister, Board Member. Mr. Wald seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Bockelman reported that there was a drowning at Puffers Pond on May 4th. Fire Chief Nelson reported on the event and his team's response to the emergency. Mr. Bockelman said he witnessed the tremendous professionalism and cooperation of the Town's staff and its mutual aid partners. He noted that police, fire, and conservation were all involved in the recovery operation. He specifically thanked the rescue services from Deerfield, South Hadley District #1, Northfield, and the State Police.

The Chair recessed the meeting at 7:01 p.m. to attend the Annual Town Meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m. with no further discussion or action.

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

Third Quarter Budget Report

FY17 Audit and Annual Financial Statements

Town Manager memo on committee appointments

Approved by the Select Board: July 23, 2018