

## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Weiss at 6:35 p.m.

### ATTENDANCE

Weiss, Greeney, Kusner, Brewer  
Awad absent  
Shaffer

### SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

The following announcements were made at the start of the meeting:

- It was reported that the Atkins Reservoir water supply is very low; six to eight feet below normal. Conservation measures are encouraged.
- The economic development position from last spring's budget was discussed by the Town Manager.
- Mr. Kusner would like to have more general discussion about zoning amendments that are on the Special Town Meeting Warrant.
- Ms. Brewer announced the prestigious National Conservation Award has been presented to Cowl's Building Supply.
- Mr. Weiss gave the "Unsung Hero Award" to Bill Elsasser (not present) for his contribution to downtown beautification by keeping the downtown flower planters watered. Mr. Weiss suggested that citizens contact the Board with suggestions of other "Unsung Heroes."
- Ms. Greeney announced the Amherst Art Walk on October 4, 2007 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.

### **Citizens' Complaints**

The Board discussed how to respond to citizens complaints. Ms. Greeney would like the Board to more efficiently communicate citizens' concerns rather than having them primarily handled by the Select Board Chair. It was suggested that complaints or suggestions go through the Chair and copies be sent to the other Board members to comment on and provide feedback. More discussion will take place at a future meeting

### **Environmental Certifying Officer Appointment – CDBG (*amended motion*)**

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to amend the action taken at the September 24, 2007 Select Board Meeting to read, "to authorize the Select Board Chair, Gerry Weiss, to designate Laurence Shaffer, Town Manager, as the Town's Environmental Certifying Officer for the Town's 2007 HDSP project and the Town's FY 07 CDBG activities."

### **Crosswalk Request- East Pleasant Street and Orchard Hill Drive**

Jason Venditti from the University of Massachusetts Facility and Campus Planning presented a map of the crosswalk location and answered questions from the Select Board. The crosswalk will be installed at no cost to the Town. Before the Board made a motion to vote on the request, Mr. Kusner and Ms. Brewer disclosed their connection to the University.

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to authorize the improvements to the sidewalk and crosswalk at East Pleasant Street and Orchard Hill Drive.

### **COLA – Non-Union Employees**

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to approve a cost of living increase for all non union Town of Amherst employees in the amount of 1% for the period July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008, consistent with the Personnel Board's recommendation.

### **Planning for Early Fall Select Board Budget FY 09 Policy Statement**

The Board discussed having a meeting to develop FY 09 policies and priorities. The meeting will be solely for discussion of the FY 09 budget and will not include public comment. The meeting will be on October 19, 2007 from 4:00 - 6:00 p.m. Each Select Board member should submit their priorities for the meeting by Monday, October 15, 2007, 10:00 a.m.

### **Town Manager Report**

- *Crab Apple Trees* – Mr. Shaffer discussed the crab apple tree on the Amherst Housing Authority property near Ann Whalen Apartments that drops crab apples and creates a hazard to foot traffic. Donna Crabtree, from the Housing Authority, will have a custodian clean up area. The crabapple trees near SuperBowl Restaurant and Bruegger's Bagels also have a problem that the town manager will have taken care of.
- *Plum Brook Soccer Fields* – Mr. Shaffer reported that the electrical lines connected to the irrigation system are ready to be installed, the grass is coming in well and he is cautiously optimistic that soccer can be played on the fields next fall.
- *Cherry Hill* – Mr. Shaffer reported that Linda Chalfant and Barbara Bilz from Leisure Services have done an excellent job with their management of Cherry Hill; the revenue is way up from last year and there have been numerous positive comments regarding the changes made at the golf course. He is very optimistic about the future of Cherry Hill.

### **Select Board Meeting Procedures**

No action taken.

### **Annual Town Election**

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to set the date for the Annual Town Election for April 1, 2008 from 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

### **Continuance of Open Meeting**

**VOTED** Weiss, Greeney, Brewer voted "Aye", Kusner abstained to extend the meeting past 9:30 p.m. to do two committee appointments.

### **Approve Minutes**

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to approve the minutes, as amended, of the *August 15, 2007* Select Board meeting.

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to approve the minutes of the *August 15, 2007 Joint Meeting* of the Select Board and the Hadley Selectmen.

**VOTED** Weiss, Greeney, Brewer voted "Aye", Kusner abstained, to approve the minutes of the *August 20, 2007* Select Board meeting.

**Committee Appointments – Town Manager**

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0), pursuant to Paragraph 3.223 of the Amherst Town Government Act, under Select Board confirmation of appointments, approves the appointment of Nancy Gilbert to the Board of Health for a term to begin October 1, 2007 and to expire on June 30, 2009.

**Committee Appointments-Select Board**

**VOTED** Weiss, Greeney, Kusner voted “Aye”, Brewer “No” to appoint Merrylees Turner to the Comprehensive Planning Committee for a term to expire June 30, 2008.

**WARRANT ARTICLES**

**FY 08 Operating Budget Amendments**

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to recommend the Warrant Article - FY 08 Operating Budget Amendments, Part B, Hampshire County Regional Lock-up Facility Assessment in the amount of \$31,323.

**Senior Trust Funds Transfer**

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to recommend the Warrant Article for the dissolution of the Senior Trust and transfer of funds.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to adjourn the open meeting at 9:45 p.m.