

Town of Amherst

UNOFFICIAL RECORD OF VOTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, April 5, 2021

6:45 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Members Participating Remotely: Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz

Members Absent: None

Finance Committee: Robert Hegner, Jane Sheffler, Bernie Kubiak

Others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich, Minute Taker Lindsey McConnell, Finance Director Sean Mangano, Chair and Vice Chair of the Amherst Pelham Regional School Committee Allison McDonald & Margaret Stancer, Regional Schools Finance Director Doug Slaughter, Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe

Public Comment, Public Forum: Eugene Goffredo, Todd Holland, Chris Riddle, Judith Souweine, Vincent O’Connor, Rebecca Mazur and Craig Cannell, Sara Draper, Lisa Lieberman, Adrienne Terrizzi, Carol Gray, Claudia Pazmany, Adrienne Terrizzi, Johanna Neumann, Lee Jennings, Sarah Eisinger, Jean and Tom Lardner, Erika Zekos, Kristin Worgess, Lydia Vernon-Jones, Marah Loft, Laura Draucker, Jeff Lee, David Lithgow, Carol Gray & Emery Berger

Public Comment, Regional School Budget Hearing: José Lugo, Gabrielle Gould, Vincent O’Connor, Lydia Irons, Allegra Clark, Zoe Crabtree, Kristin Worgess, Julian Hynes, Marisol Pierce Bonifaz, & Margaret Sawyer

Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting of the Town Council is being conducted via remote participation.

All votes will be taken by roll call.

Per MGL Chapter 30A Section 20(f), this meeting is being recorded and broadcast by Amherst Media.

President Griesemer called the public forum to order at 6:31 p.m.

President Griesemer declared the public forum adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

President Griesemer called the regular meeting to order at 7:28 p.m.

Steinberg called the meeting of the Finance Committee to order at 7:29 p.m.

Steinberg declared the meeting of the Finance Committee at 8:56 p.m.

5. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda: The following items were selected because they were considered to be routine and it was reasonable to expect they would pass with no controversy. To remove an item from the consent agenda for discussion later in the meeting, ask that it be removed when the President lists the consent agenda items. The request to remove an item from the consent agenda does not require a second.

MOVED: To move the following items, and the printed motions thereunder and approve those items as a single unit:

- Suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the following agenda item:
 - 8.c. Amendment to Town Manager Public Safety Goal
- 8.a. Referral of Regional School Budget to Finance Committee
- 11.a. Approval of Minutes:
 - March 22, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
 - March 22, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Public Forum

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Ross

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

8. Action Items

a. Regional School Budget

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED: In accordance with Section 5.5(a) of the Amherst Home Rule Charter, to refer the budget submitted by the Town Manager and recommended by the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Committee for Fiscal Year 2022 to the Finance Committee.

b. Jones Library Appropriations

MOVED: In accordance with Charter Sec. 5.6, having been published on the Town Bulletin Board for a minimum of 10 days on March 25, 2021, a Public Forum held on April 5, 2021, and having been reviewed by the Finance Committee report of April 5, 2021, to adopt Council Order FY22-08A: An Order Appropriating and Authorizing Debt for the Special Collections Facility of the Jones Library under Historic Preservation, as presented.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Ryan

ROLL CALL VOTE: 10-3 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilors DuMont, Schoen, and Swartz voted No)

MOVED: In accordance with Charter Sec. 5.6, having been published on the Town Bulletin Board for a minimum of 10 days on March 25, 2021, a Public Forum held on April 5, 2021, and having been reviewed by the Finance Committee report of April 5, 2021, to adopt Council Order FY21-06C: An Order Approving and Authorizing Borrowing to Fund the Expansion and Restoration of the Jones Library – Bond Authorizations, as presented.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Hanneke

ROLL CALL VOTE: 10-2-1 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schreiber, Steinberg voted Yes; Councilors DuMont and Swartz voted No; Councilor Schoen Abstained)

MOVED: To authorize the Town Manager to enter into the Memorandum of Agreement by and between the Town of Amherst and The Jones Library, Incorporated acting by and through its Trustees, whereby the Jones Library, Incorporated agrees that it will exercise good faith and diligent efforts to raise the balance of the Library Share of \$5,656,576 through grants, gifts, donations and other fund-raising efforts, and deposit those funds with the Town of Amherst in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Ryan

ROLL CALL VOTE: 11-2 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilors DuMont and Swartz voted No)

c. Amendment to Town Manager Public Safety Goal

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED: To suspend Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 8.4 for the current agenda item.

MOVED: To amend the Town Council Performance Goals for the Town Manager July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021 adopted September 14, 2020 by changing, under Policy Goals Section II. Community Health and Safety, the date results are presented to the Town Council from “March 31, 2021” to “May 15, 2021”, and

To amend the July 20, 2020 Council directive previously adopted: that the approval of the FY2021 Operating budget is made with the explicit understanding with the Town Manager that two upcoming anticipated vacant positions in the Police Department’s budget not be filled until the Town Manager, in consultation with the Town Council, and Residents of Amherst, has fully explored alternative options of providing services and presented the results to the Town Council no later than March 31, 2021.

To read:

that the approval of the FY2021 Operating budget is made with the explicit understanding with the Town Manager that two upcoming anticipated vacant positions in the Police Department’s budget not be filled until the Town Manager, in consultation with the Town Council, and Residents of Amherst, has fully explored alternative options of providing services and presented the results to the Town Council no later than May 15, 2021.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Steinberg

ROLL CALL VOTE: Unanimous

d. Zoning Bylaw 10.02 Related to Associate Members of the Planning Board

No action taken.

e. Addition of Town Council Rules of Procedure rule 10.10 Reappointment of Members of the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Resident Members of the Finance Committee related to term limits

First discussion, no action.

11. Approval of Minutes – Consent Agenda

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA:

MOVED: To adopt the following Town Council meeting minutes, as presented:

- March 22, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
- March 22, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Public Forum

The Council adjourned at 11:20 p.m.