

Town of Amherst
UNOFFICIAL RECORD OF VOTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, February 7, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting

Councilors participating remotely: Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Taub, Walker

Councilors Absent: Steinberg

Finance Committee: Matt Holloway, Bob Hegner,

Staff in attendance:

Others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe, Finance Director Sean Mangano, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich,

When remote participation is used, 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 6:15 pm

President Griesemer called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 pm

3. Hearings

a. 6:30 p.m. Public Hearing – Eversource Requests to install poles at the following locations, continued from January 24, 2022:

1) 46 Rolling Ridge Road

2) Woodside Avenue

MOVED: To close the public hearings for 46 Rolling Ridge Road and Woodside Avenue.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Hanneke

ROLL CALL VOTE: 12-0, with 1 absent (Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Taub, and Walker voted Yes; Steinberg was Absent)

5. 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:

- **Suspension** of Town Council Rules of Procedure Rule 8.4 for the following agenda items:

- 8.b.1. Appropriation and Transfer Order FY22-05D: An Order Appropriating Funds for the Town of Amherst Capital Program – Additional funding for the Fire Pumper Truck
- 8.b.2 Appropriation and Transfer Order FY22-05E: An Order Appropriating Funds for the Town of Amherst Capital Program – Additional funding for the Elementary School Feasibility study
- 9. **Approval** of Town Manager Appointment:
 - Board of License Commissioners
- 11. **Approval** of Minutes:
 - January 24, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Miller

ROLL CALL VOTE: 12-0, with 1 absent (Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Taub, and Walker voted Yes; Steinberg was Absent)

8. Action Items

a. Public Way

1) Eversource Pole Petitions

a. 46 Rolling Ridge Road

No further action required.

b. Woodside Avenue

MOVED: To approve the order for pole locations on Woodside Avenue titled “ORDER FOR SOLELY OWNED POLE LOCATIONS” dated December 20, 2021, as amended according to the Eversource Petition Map titled 297 South Pleasant Street dated 2/2/2022.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Hanneke

ROLL CALL VOTE: 12-0, with 1 absent (Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Taub, and Walker voted Yes; Steinberg was Absent)

b. Financial Appropriations

1) Appropriation and Transfer Order FY22-05D: An Order Appropriating Funds for the Town of Amherst Capital Program – Additional funding for the Fire Pumper Truck VOTED VIA CONSENT

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

MOVED: In accordance with Charter Sec. 5.6, having been published on the Town Bulletin Board for a minimum of 10 days on January 27, 2022, a Public Forum held on February 7, 2022, and having been reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee report of February 7, 2022, to adopt Appropriation and Transfer Order FY22-05D: An Order Appropriating Funds for the Town of Amherst Capital Program – Additional funding for the Fire Pumper Truck, as shown on page 5 of the Motions Sheet.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Schoen

ROLL CALL VOTE: 12-0, with 1 absent (Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Taub, and Walker voted Yes; Steinberg was Absent)

2) Appropriation and Transfer Order FY22-05E: An Order Appropriating Funds for the Town of Amherst Capital Program – Additional funding for the Elementary School Feasibility study

VOTED VIA CONSENT

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

MOVED: In accordance with Charter Sec. 5.6, having been published on the Town Bulletin Board for a minimum of 10 days on January 27, 2022, a Public Forum held on February 7, 2022, and having been reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee report of February 7, 2022, to adopt Appropriation and Transfer Order FY22-05E: An Order Appropriating Funds for the Town of Amherst Capital Program – Additional funding for the Elementary School Feasibility study, as shown on page 6 of the Motions Sheet.

Motion by: Griesemer

Seconded by: Devlin Gauthier

ROLL CALL VOTE: 12-0, with 1 absent (Bahl-Milne, De Angelis, Devlin Gauthier, Griesemer, Hanneke, Lopes, Miller, Pam, Rooney, Schoen, Taub, and Walker voted Yes; Steinberg was Absent)

c. Proposed Zoning Article 16: Temporary Moratorium on the Permitting and Approval of Large-Scale Ground Mounted Solar Energy Systems, Including Photovoltaic Installations – First Reading

9. Appointments

a. Town Manager Appointments – Charter Sec. 3.3(c)

1) Board of License Commissioners

VOTED VIA CONSENT

MOVED: In accordance with Charter section 2.11(b), to approve the Town Manager appointment of Doug Slaughter to the Board of License Commissioners, as filed with the Town Clerk on January 27, 2022, effective immediately, and for a term to expire June 30, 2024.

11. Approval of Minutes

a. January 24, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA

MOVED: To approve the January 24, 2022 Regular Town Council Meeting Minutes, as presented.

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DRAFT

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS:

APPROPRIATION and TRANSFER ORDER - FY22 – 05D

An Order Appropriating Funds for the Town of Amherst Capital Program – Additional funding for the Fire Pumper Truck (*majority vote*)

BE IT ORDERED by the Town Council of the Town of Amherst that:

The Town appropriate the **sum total \$187,000 for** additional funding for the Fire Pumper, and to meet such appropriation, transfer \$187,000 from Free Cash in the Undesignated Fund Balance of the General Fund as follow;

\$187,000 Fire Pumper Truck

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of ____ for, ____ against and ____ present on _____, 2022

Athena O’Keeffe, Town Council Clerk

J. Lynn Griesemer, Council President

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM APPROPRIATIONS:

APPROPRIATION and TRANSFER ORDER - FY22 – 05E

An Order Appropriating Funds for the Town of Amherst Capital Program – Additional funding for the Elementary School Feasibility study (*majority vote*)

BE IT ORDERED by the Town Council of the Town of Amherst that:

The Town of Amherst hereby appropriates the amount of **Two Hundred and Eighty Thousand (\$280,000) Dollars** for the purpose of paying costs of the Feasibility Study described in and resulting from the Town’s Statement of Interest submitted for the Fort River School, located at 70 Southeast Street, Amherst, MA, inclusive of studying a consolidation option involving the Wildwood School, located at 71 Strong Street, Amherst, including the payment of all costs incidental or related thereto, and for which the Town of Amherst may be eligible for a grant from the Massachusetts School Building Authority (“MSBA”), said amount to be expended under the direction of Amherst School Building Committee. To meet this appropriation the Town Council of the Town of Amherst appropriates \$280,000 from Free Cash in the Undesignated Fund Balance of the General Fund. The Town of Amherst acknowledges that the MSBA’s grant program is a non-entitlement, discretionary program based on need, as determined by the MSBA, and any costs the Town of Amherst incurs in excess of any grant approved by and received from the MSBA shall be the sole responsibility of the Town of Amherst.

I hereby certify that at a regular meeting of the Town Council for which a quorum was present, the above Order was adopted by a vote of ____ for, ____ against and ____ present on _____, 2022

Athena O’Keeffe, Town Council Clerk

J. Lynn Griesemer, Council President