

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Weiss at 5:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Gerry Weiss, Diana Stein, Alisa Brewer (5:33,) Stephanie O’Keeffe

Absent: (none)

Town Manager Larry Shaffer

Members of the public: Vincent Tran, Cheryl Zoll, Tony Maroulis

OPENING REMARKS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- A Community Development Block Grant Forum will be held Wednesday, September 17th at 6:30 p.m. at Bangs Center.
- A community meeting about future possibilities for Kendrick Park will be held on October 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Room at Town Hall.
- The Amherst Senior Center will celebrate its 40th anniversary on October 19th from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Senior Center, and reservations are requested.
- The Community Choices Committee Budget Forum will be held October 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Room.
- A public hearing on the proposed change to the Zoning Bylaw regarding creation of duplexes will be held September 17th at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Room.
- The Amherst Bike Fair will be held on September 20th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on the Town Common.
- Whole Foods will donate 5% of the day’s sales on September 17th to the “Farms to Schools” project.
- The kickoff to the effort to defeat ballot Question 1 to repeal the State income tax will be September 16th at noon at the Campus Center auditorium.
- The annual Energy Fair will be held October 4th on the Town Common.
- There will be a November 4th ballot question regarding a single-payer health care initiative. It will be on the ballot in 10 communities across the state, and the assigned number of the question on Amherst’s ballot is not yet known.

SELECT BOARD’S ACTION

Survival Center Food Drive Parking Request

To mark September as Hunger Awareness Month the Amherst Survival Center will hold a food drive. Executive Director Cheryl Zoll requested permission to park a van downtown on September 27th to collect food and promote the Survival Center’s services.

VOTED unanimously to approve the bagging of one parking meter on South Pleasant Street from 8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 27, 2008 during a food drive for the Amherst Survival Center.

Approving Police as Agents of the Select Board

Mr. Weiss said that the request from the Police Chief to approve a list of police officers as agents of the Select Board is a standard annual procedure. Ms. Brewer noted that having the relevant section of Mass. General Law attached to request was helpful. Mr. Weiss read the list of names and the approval was as follows:

VOTED unanimously to appoint the following Police Officers as agents of the Select Board:

Chief Charles L. Scherpa	Sergeant Charles H. Nelson, III
Captain Michael R. Kent	Sergeant William N. Menard
Captain Scott P. Livingstone	Sergeant Brian C. Daly
Lieutenant Robert J. O'Connor	Sergeant Brian T. Johnson
Lieutenant Ronald A. Young	Detective Christina B. Knightly
Lieutenant Jennifer M. Gundersen	Detective David W. Foster
Lieutenant Christopher G. Pronovost	Detective Gabriel Ting
Sergeant Michael D. Sullivan	Detective Janet M. Lopez
Sergeant Jerry Millar	Detective Richard MacLean
Sergeant David R. Knightly, Jr.	Detective Gregory D. Wise
	Detective Brandon M. Seymour

Committee Appointments

Ms. Stein recommended appointing Caroline Hanna to the 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee, to replace the previous Amherst College representative, who had resigned.

VOTED unanimously to appoint Caroline Hanna as the Amherst College representative to the 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee, for a term to expire December 31, 2009.

Approval of Minutes

VOTED 3 in favor with 1 abstention (Weiss) to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2008 Select Board meeting as amended. Mr. Weiss abstained due to his absence from that meeting.

Town Manager Evaluation Process

Ms. O'Keeffe requested additional information on the process and expectations for the Town Manager's evaluation, asking about the creation of goals for the new year and the opportunity to discuss how the Select Board and Town Manager are working together. She noted her desire to find a way to include staff input in the evaluation. Mr. Weiss said that the deadline for public input had passed, and that all evaluation e-mails had been distributed to the Select Board and copies of written submissions were in members' mail boxes. Mr. Weiss agreed to find and distribute last year's evaluation and the Town Manager's contract. Mr. Shaffer agreed to create a self-evaluation and e-mail it to Select Board members by the end of the week. It was determined that the performance evaluation could be separate from goal setting, and that a new deadline for Select Board members to submit evaluations would be September 24. Mr. Weiss will consolidate the form results and the comments into a single evaluation report, and would like for that to

be done by the end of the month. Mr. Shaffer suggested that he and the Select Board jointly discuss goals and the resources required to meet them, and to establish benchmarks for measuring performance. Mr. Weiss said he believes the issue of a contract extension could be discussed in Executive Session, because it is a contract. It was noted that Mr. Shaffer will not be at the September 22nd meeting, and will be attending the International City Managers Conference in Richmond, Virginia.

Action: It was agreed to separate the performance evaluation from the goal setting; to distribute the Town Manager's contract and the FY08 evaluation to Select Board members; that Mr. Shaffer would write and distribute a self-evaluation this week; to set September 24 as the new deadline for Select Board members to submit evaluation forms; and to put the topic on the September 22nd agenda for further discussion.

Select Board Questions for 10/25 Budget Meeting

Ms. Brewer reminded the Select Board of the Wednesday, September 17th noon deadline for submitting questions to the office for discussion of the October 25th meeting with department heads. This discussion is on the September 22nd meeting agenda.

New Chamber Director

Tony Maroulis, the new Executive Director of the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce was introduced and welcomed.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Common Victualler License – Miss Saigon

Vincent Tran said that a new restaurant, Miss Saigon, would be opening in the former Mr. Chicken space in early October.

VOTED unanimously to approve the Common Victualler's License for Ms. Saigon, 96 North Pleasant Street, Manager Vincent Tran.

Special Liquor Licenses – UMass

VOTED unanimously with a single vote to approve the Special All Alcoholic Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts for September 24, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the University Gallery for a reception, and to approve the Special All Alcoholic Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts for October 11, 2008 from 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. at the Durfee Conservatory for a reception/dinner.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Town Meeting Citizen Petitions

Mr. Weiss said that no citizen petition articles were submitted for the fall Town Meeting warrant. Approximately ten articles are expected, including zoning and financial articles. **No action taken.**

September 11th Ceremony

Mr. Weiss said that the annual ceremony was held at the Central Fire Station at 10:00 a.m. in remembrance of September 11th, and was brief, solemn and well-attended. He noted that the commemorative flags flew downtown for the first time in several years, by last week's Select Board vote.

No action taken.

Hadley Ambulance Situation

Mr. Weiss said that he had contacted the Chair of the Hadley Board of Selectmen regarding the impasse on the ambulance agreement. He said he did so to maintain a good relationship with that Board, and not to attempt negotiations on the issue. He said the Hadley Chair indicated that a committee was established to assess the feasibility and need for a town-wide fire department and EMS in Hadley, and that a meeting of the Select Boards, the Town Managers, or both, would occur to discuss the subject in the future.

No action taken.

Meeting with Northampton Mayor

Mr. Weiss said that he and the Town Manager had met with Northampton's Mayor last week to discuss possible collaboration on issues such as transportation, housing and emergency management. Mr. Shaffer said that he had been to Northampton several months ago and appreciated Mayor Clare Higgins coming to Amherst this time, and that discussions to consider shared opportunities will continue.

No action taken.

Joint Meeting with Parking Task Force and Public Transportation Committee

Mr. Weiss said that the Parking Task Force and Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee had met jointly to consider how to cover the funding gap for Route 32 (Atkins to Puffer's Pond) bus service caused by high fuel prices. He said that the PTBC had voted unanimously to recommend that the difference – approximately \$10,260 – come from an additional appropriation from the Transportation Enterprise Fund by Town Meeting, and that the committee's longer-term goal is to have PVRTA take over that route. He said the two bodies would meet again September 26th to consider future funding possibilities. Mr. Shaffer said ridership on the route was low but had increased approximately 20% over last year, and that the increase encourages maintaining the route. He said the original funding gap was over \$25,000, but that he had asked UMass transit to reconsider that amount, and it was reduced to the current figure. Mr. Shaffer said he had attended his first meeting as representative to the PVRTA Advisory Board, and will actively pursue the town's best interests via that board.

No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously to adjourn the open meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie O'Keeffe