

**AMHERST FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**  
Meeting of July 14, 2009

**Location:**

The meeting was called to order at 7:03p.m. in the First Floor Meeting Room of Town Hall.

**Attendance:**

Marilyn Blaustein, Kay Moran (Vice-Chair), Robert Saul (7:30pm), Douglas Slaughter, Andrew Steinberg (Chair), Marylou Theilman

**Others Present:**

John Musante, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director; Guilford Mooring, Superintendent of Public Works; David Burgess, Principal Assessor; Larry Jutrus, Atkins' Consultant; Walter Wolnik, Citizen

**Agenda:**

1. Election of Chair and Vice Chair
2. Board/Committee Liaison Assignments for FY 10
3. FY 09 Reserve Fund Transfers
4. Special Town Meeting Articles – Review and Vote Recommendations
  - a. Article 1: Local Option Meals Excise
  - b. Article 2: Local Option Room Occupancy Excise
  - c. Article 3: Atkins Economic Opportunity Area – Amendment
  - d. Article 4: Atkins Economic Opportunity Area – Project Certification Application
  - e. Article 5: Photovoltaic Solar Panel Systems Contract
  - f. Article 6: FY 2010 Library Services Operating Budget Amendment (Jones Library Trustees)
  - g. Article 7: Petition – Library Services Operating Budget Amendment
5. Minutes
  - a. April 16, 2009
  - b. April 30, 2009
  - c. May 21, 2009
  - d. June 17, 2009
  - e. June 22, 2009
  - f. June 23, 2009 (Marilyn) – not yet distributed
6. Discussion of Annual Town Meeting and suggestions from June 29 Select Board meeting
7. Finance Committee report to Town Meeting
8. Next Meeting and Agenda
9. Miscellaneous

**Announcement:**

Steinberg informed the FC that he had contacted the Ethics Commission in regard to his wife's work at the Jones' Library and his position on the FC, as it relates to the library, and the Conflict of Interest Law. He was told that if the appointing authority, Harrison Gregg, did not believe it posed a problem and signed a waiver so stating, Steinberg would not be in violation of the Conflict of Interest Law. The waiver is on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

**Actions:**

1. Election of Chair  
Andrew Steinberg, Nominated and Voted 4-0-1
- Election of Vice Chair  
Kay Moran, Nominated and Voted 4-0-1

2. Board/Committee Liaison Assignments for FY10

Budget Coordinating Group (BCG)

Andrew Steinberg and Douglas Slaughter

Joint Capital Planning Committee (JCPC)

Douglas Slaughter and Kay Moran

Town Audit Committee

Robert Saul

Jones Library Liaison

Robert Saul

Amherst Elementary and Amherst Pelham Regional Schools Liaisons

Marilyn Blaustein and Marylou Theilman

Elementary Regionalization Committee Appointment

Andrew Steinberg

Select Board Liaisons

Andrew Steinberg and Kay Moran

3. FY Reserve Fund Transfers

Motion: To transfer \$71,100 from the Reserve Fund to Public Works to cover 2/3 of the snow and ice deficit. Voted 4-0-0 with 2 absent

4. Special Town Meeting Articles – Review and Vote Recommendations

Voted to Recommend: 5-0-0 -- Article 1: Local Option Meals Excise

Voted to Recommend: 5-0-0 -- Article 2: Local Option Room Occupancy Excise

Voted to Recommend: 6-0-0 -- Article 3: Atkins Economic Opportunity Area – Amendment

Voted to Recommend: 6-0-0 -- Article 4: Atkins Economic Opportunity Area – Project Certification Application

Voted to Recommend: 6-0-0 -- Article 5: Photovoltaic Solar Panel Systems Contract

Voted to Not Recommend: 6-0-0 -- Article 6: FY 2010 Library Services Operating Budget Amendment (Jones Library Trustees)

Voted to Recommend to Dismiss: 6-0-0 -- Article 7: Petition – Library Services Operating Budget Amendment

5. Minutes

The following Minutes were approved as amended:

Voted 6-0-0 April 16, 2009 Minutes

Voted 6-0-0 April 30, 2009 Minutes

Voted 5-0, 1 abstaining, May 21, 2009 Minutes

Voted 4-0-2 June 17, 2009 Minutes

Voted 4-0-2 June 22, 2009 Minutes

The following Minutes were approved as written:

Voted 3-0-3 June 23, 2009 Minutes

**Discussion:**

6. Annual Town Meeting and Suggestion from the June 29 Select Board Meeting

The Select Board reviewed the recent TM and discussed some ways in which it could be improved. One area which needs improvement is the presentation of information relating to the motions. New material or a brief summary rather than reading directly from material previously distributed to TM members is suggested. Steinberg suggested that TM members submit question to the FC either through Email or land mail which could be answered at TM. The discussion will continue.

7. Finance Committee Report to Town Meeting

The draft will be done by midweek with a deadline for mailing on the weekend.

8. Next Meeting and Agenda  
To be determined.

9. Miscellaneous

Assignments of Articles for TM  
Articles 1 and 2 Steinberg  
Articles 3 and 4 Saul  
Article 5 Slaughter  
Articles 6 and 7 Moran

Adjourned:

The meeting adjourned at 9:40pm.

Submitted by:

Marylou Theilman, Acting Clerk