

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. O’Keeffe at 6:31 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Diana Stein, Alisa Brewer, Aaron Hayden, Stephanie O’Keeffe

Absent: Gerry Weiss

Town Manager Larry Shaffer

Members of the Public: Stephen Lee, Cody Gavin

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment, in keeping with the Select Board’s policy for meetings that precede Town Meeting sessions.

SELECT BOARD ACTIONS

Position on Warrant Article 3, Part C

At the October 5, 2009 meeting, it was decided to defer a recommendation on Article 3, Part C – appropriating a sum from free cash to balance the FY10 budget – while awaiting details of anticipated 9C cuts by the Governor. With the 9C information now available, and with Chapter 70 and unrestricted local aid funds spared, the recommendation provided by Mr. Musante was to cover the reductions to Quinn Bill (police career incentive) and Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) funds for State-owned land by using \$81,159 from free cash. It was noted that cuts to Regional Transportation would be dealt with separately by the Regional Schools, and was expected to come from their Excess and Deficiency (E&D) fund. It was noted that the 9C cuts were considerably smaller than had been feared.

VOTED: 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss,) to recommend Article 3, Part C in the amount of \$81,159.

Budget Policy Guideline Discussion

There was brief discussion about the latest draft budget policy guidelines document (titled: *Proposed FY11 Budget Policy Guidelines SO’K, 11/2.*) Mr. Hayden noted the need to refine a reserve use policy as the budget process moves forward. Mr. Shaffer said his budget proposal would not include reserve use. There was some tweaking of language regarding the statement about placing an override question on the March 23, 2010 ballot. It was agreed that Ms. O’Keeffe would incorporate those edits and present the guidelines to Mr. Shaffer as a formal memo on November 3rd, and would have the document posted in the relevant places on the Town web site. Discussion of questions for Department Heads was postponed to a future meeting.

VOTED: 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss,) to approve the FY11 Budget Policy Guidelines, per the draft document dated 11/2/09, as amended.

Committee Appointment

VOTED: 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss,) to approve the reappointment of Ann Woodbridge, Amherst Cultural Council, for a term to expire June 30, 2012.

Adjournment Plans for the 11/2 Town Meeting Session

With the possibility that eight articles might be handled quickly at this evening's session, and with the concern that Article 9 is complex and deserves adequate time, there was discussion about recommending a cut-off time for beginning its consideration. It was agreed that 9:30 would be that time, and the preference would then be to move that Article 10 be considered before Article 9, with the adjournment motion to follow that article. (Approval of both motions would be up to Town Meeting.) It was agreed that Ms. O'Keeffe would discuss this with the Moderator.

Action: By consensus, it was agreed to proceed as described.

Approval of Minutes

VOTED: 2 in favor (Stein, O'Keeffe) 2 abstaining (Brewer, Hayden) and 1 absent (Weiss) to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2009 Select Board meeting as amended.

VOTED: 4 in favor 1 absent (Weiss) to approve the minutes of the October 26, 2009 Select Board meeting as amended.

Report on 10/30 MMA Legislative Breakfast

Ms. Stein and Ms. Brewer attended the October 30th MMA legislative breakfast in Deerfield. They reported on key issues discussed:

- Seeking to end loopholes on additional property tax exempt business entities
- The possibility of tying Regional Transportation to Chapter 70 money, to avoid cuts
- Ethical complaints being more numerous at the local level than the State level (noted for its dubious significance, considering the greater quantity of elected municipal officials)
- Gaming and a likely bill to make it legal
- Possible toll hikes with discounts for State residents
- Disappointment expressed that more municipalities had not yet adopted the new local option taxes, or enrolled in GIC
- Possible increase in vehicle inspection fees, earmarked for police training and policing grants
- Rising expenditures for veterans services, which some attribute to easy State residency requirements (no one wants to short-change Veterans; can be a significant budget variable in small towns; some concern about potential reductions to Federal reimbursements; reimbursements are slow)
- Concern by some towns (not expressed by Amherst) about non-education-related programs being tax exempt at colleges and private schools, including dining and special summer programs
- Competing versions of new health care plan design rules in House and Senate committees

Decision on Wednesday, November 4th Meeting

Action: By consensus, it was agreed that there was no need to meet before Town Meeting on Wednesday, November 4th. (The next meeting will be Monday, November 9th at 6:15 p.m.)

LICENSES AND PERMITS

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Stephen Lee

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss,) to approve the New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Stephen Lee, 17 Curtis Place, Amherst, MA.

New Secondhand Sales License – Gold Buyers of Amherst

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss,) to approve the new Secondhand Sales License for Gold Buyers of Amherst, 233 North Pleasant Street, Unit 35, Amherst, MA. Manager: Cody Gavin.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

The Town Manager reported on the following:

- Announced the promotion of Amherst Police Lieutenant Jennifer Gunderson to fill the Captain position made available by Chief Livingstone's appointment, and noted that a press release had been issued
- H1N1 vaccine getting prioritized distribution, beginning with pregnant women and emergency first responders; additional doses of the vaccine were received by the Town Monday
- Attended the SAFE graduation last Tuesday and the AEF Trivia Bee last Thursday
- Took part in Friday's Halloween Parade; dressed up as Captain Hook

ADJOURNMENT

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

-- Respectfully submitted by Stephanie O'Keeffe