

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Ms. O’Keeffe at 6:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

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

Absent: None

Town Manager Larry Shaffer

SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

Sign the July 27 Special Town Meeting Warrant

There was brief explanation of each of the warrant articles.

VOTED: unanimously to sign the July 27, 2009 Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Set Annual Election Date

VOTED: unanimously to schedule the 2010 Annual Town Election for Tuesday, March 30, 2009.

Choose Select Board Representative to Puffer’s Pond 2020 Committee

Mr. Hayden volunteered to be the Select Board’s representative to the Puffers Pond 2020 Committee.

Action: by consensus, Mr. Hayden’s appointment was approved

Letters of Appreciation to Senator Stan Rosenberg and Representative Ellen Story

Ms. O’Keeffe supplied letters of appreciation to Senator Rosenberg and Representative Story, thanking them for their work on Amherst’s behalf during the difficult budget process.

Action: without a vote, all members approved and signed both letters

Committee Appointments

VOTED unanimously to approve Tony Maroulis as the Town-Commercial Relations Committee’s representative to the Save Our Stop Task Force, for a term to expire May 31, 2010

VOTED unanimously to reappoint the following members of the Public Works Committee, for terms to expire June 30, 2012:

- Michael Cann
- Donald George
- Charles Moran

Town Manager Evaluation for FY09/Goals for FY10

Ms. O’Keeffe presented a document titled “Proposed Timeline for Town Manager FY09 Evaluation & FY10 Goal Setting” dated 7/8/09. With discussion, it was decided that the notifications to Town Meeting members seeking feedback on the Town Manager’s performance would go out as a full sheet in the Town Meeting packets, rather than as a post card mailing. It was emphasized that public and staff

input would be read by the Town Manager and the Select Board, but as personnel documents, they would not be available to the public or press. Further discussion on the timeline and the proposal to conduct the evaluation and goal setting in parallel would take place at the next meeting.

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

Town Manager's Written Report on FY09 Performance

Mr. Shaffer presented a memo to the Select Board titled "Performance Review – Town Manager Goals 2009," dated 7/8/09. There were questions to clarify issues about progress toward improving employee communication and morale issues, and utilization of volunteers. It was suggested that more written description be provided regarding the value of the employee meetings and working with the university and colleges.

Action: The Select Board thanked Mr. Shaffer for his accomplishments this year and for his self-evaluation; the topic will be pursued in more detail through the Select Board's evaluation process.

Liaison and Representative Reports:

250th Anniversary Committee: Ms. Brewer reported that groups interested in being in the 250th parade should still contact parade organizers, even though the official deadline has passed.

Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee: Ms. Brewer said they are still working on a new Municipal Housing Trust article and hope to have it ready for Fall Town meeting.

Police Chief Search Committee: Mr. Weiss reported that there would be a second round of interviews for Captain Mike Kent and Captain Scott Livingstone in August.

Complete Count Committee for 2010 Census: Ms. O'Keeffe reported on the first meeting of the committee and its goal of reaching hard to count populations: the wide range of people involved, and the importance of census numbers in funding allocation and for determining Congressional representation.

No action taken.

Update on Summer Agenda Plans

There was a brief review of Select Board projects planned for the summer, with no significant updates.

Statement of Support for Local Option Taxes

Ms. O'Keeffe presented the draft document titled "Articles 1 and 2 – Select Board Statement of Support" dated 7/8/09, and a chart from Mr. Musante. She explained that the goal was to express the Select Board's strong support for adoption of the local option meals tax and the increased room occupancy (lodging) tax to Town Meeting members. Edits and additions were suggested.

Action: it was agreed that Ms. O'Keeffe would incorporate the chart and the suggested edits in time for the next day's (7/10) Town Meeting packet deadline.

VOTED: unanimously to recommend support of Articles 1 and 2

Chair's Report

Ms. O'Keeffe reported on the following:

- The success of the Fourth of July parade and the agreement between the Town and the Parade Committee, and hopes that this agreement will hold for the future
- Judging the Hadley house decorating contest the previous week, as part of the Hadley 350th celebration; judges included Jeff Boyle from Hatfield and John Hine from South Hadley, and were hosted by Hadley's Gerry Devine. She noted that the group discussed Select Board pay, and that Hatfield and Hadley both get \$1,200 per year, and South Hadley gets \$2,000. (Hadley Selectmen are also eligible for 65% health insurance coverage.)
- Having given brief remarks at the July Fourth festivities before the fireworks, honoring the anniversary celebration committees of Amherst and Hadley

- Having been invited to offer remarks at the July 23rd reception honoring Brian Morton for his long Finance Committee service
- Communication with the Coalition for Jobs and Growth, a groups advocating for casinos in Massachusetts; they are seeking Amherst’s support. If anyone wants to put this issue on a future agenda, let her know.

No action taken.

Calendar Preview

Ms. O’Keeffe presented a document titled “Select Board FY10 Master Calendar – Updated 7/8/09” sketching out upcoming meetings and presenting a framework for scheduling annual recurring issues. All were encouraged to offer ongoing suggestions and comments for the calendar.

No action taken.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

The Town Manager reported on the following:

- That his ship surgery has been postponed until the Fall, and he will be here for the Special Town Meeting
- That the Tree Warden has ordered nine trees for the downtown area and will oversee their planting and initial maintenance, and that the tree pits have been prepared with structural soils.
- That proposed bills in State House and Senate seek to limit the timeframe for negotiating cable contracts with municipalities, which is opposed by our ACTV Board and administration, and other municipalities; a hearing on the bill will be held 7/22 (after lengthy discussion, it was decided that Mr. Shaffer would either send a letter on the Town’s behalf or supply a letter for the Select Board to sign at its next meeting)
- That the Personnel Board has met and is supporting a proposal from non-union employees that Department Heads receive 2% COLAs, and that those with lower pay grades receive 3.5% (more detail and a formal recommendation will be available when the SB considers this at the next meeting); conversations continue with other unions about COLAs, but no progress to report
- Additionally, he answered questions about the potential for bus route 32 to be funded by PVRTA; it was explained that the ridership meets PVRTA’s threshold, but that the other criteria – forward funding of the Regional Transit Authorities – has been approved but with delayed implementation, and so it can’t happen yet.

No action taken.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

New Taxi Driver/Chauffer License – Megan Durell

VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffer License for Megan Durell, 4 Grover Street, Holyoke, MA 01040.

ADJOURNMENT

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

-- Respectfully submitted by Stephanie O’Keeffe

Approved at the November 23, 2009 Select Board Meeting