

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Present: Alisa Brewer, Diana Stein, Jim Wald, Stephanie O’Keeffe

Absent: Aaron Hayden

Town Manager Larry Shaffer

Town Staff: Rob Detweiler, Maria Geryk,

Members of the Public: Briana Roy, Angelica Carey, Alexa Sade, Andrea Spector, Todd Cromack.

Kevin Collins, Peter Lilya,

PUBLIC COMMENT

UMass students Briana Roy, Angelica Carey, Alexa Sade and Andrea Spector talked about MASSPirg’s position in favor of expanding the bottle bill and sought the Select Board’s support for legislation under consideration at the State House. It was mutually acceptable to the Select Board and the students to put the item on the May 3rd agenda for consideration.

SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

Parking Request – International Association of Lions Clubs

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve the request from the International Association of Lions Clubs for three metered parking spaces on South Pleasant Street on Saturday, May 8, 2010 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. to park their Eye Mobile at the Rotary’s Community Fair, as indicated on the map that Ms. O’Keeffe will provide to the Select Board office.

Parking Request – Community Fair

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve the request from the Amherst Rotary Club for the relaxed parking enforcement for the Rotary Community Fair:

1. No Parking on the westerly side of Boltwood Avenue from Spring Street to College Street beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 4, 2010 to midnight on Saturday, May 8, 2010.
2. Close the Spring Street parking lot to all parking on Friday, May 7, 2010 from 2:00 p.m. to midnight, and on Saturday, May 8, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. (following the Farmers Market) to midnight.
3. No parking at three meter locations on South Pleasant Street on the westerly side of the Town Common south of the taxi stand from 8:00 a.m. to midnight on Thursday, May 6, 2010, and from 8:00 a.m. to midnight on Friday, May 7, 2010 and Saturday, May 8, 2010.

Progress Report – FY10 Town Manger Performance Goals

Mr. Shaffer reviewed and expanded upon a memo he had submitted detailing his progress on this year’s performance goals.

Town Meeting Preparation

Speaker assignments for all the warrant articles were completed (See below.) Without a vote, it was agreed that Select Board meetings would be held prior to each of the Monday Town Meeting sessions, at which time, it would be decided whether to also meet before the following Wednesday session. In keeping with recent practice, it was agreed to not hold public comment periods at the brief pre-TM Select Board meetings.

Member Reports

JCPC Update: Ms. O’Keeffe and Ms. Stein gave an update on the JCPC’s process and its recommendation to Town Meeting

Child Abuse Prevention Month and Flag Raising

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to proclaim April 2010 as Child Abuse Prevention Month.

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve that the Children’s Memorial Flag be raised on the Town Common on April 30, 2010.

WARRANT ARTICLES

Article 8 – Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Assessment method

Mr. Detweiler explained the article to the Select Board.

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to recommend Article 8 – Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Assessment method to Town Meeting; Ms. Brewer will be the speaker.

Article 9 – FY 2011 Operating Budget – Regional Schools

Mr. Detweiler and Ms. Geryk summarized the budget for the Select Board; there was much mutual appreciation expressed for work on creating the successful override recommendation.

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to recommend Article 9 – FY 2011 Operating Budget – Regional Schools to Town Meeting; Ms. Brewer will be the speaker.

Article 9 – FY 2011 Operating Budget – Elementary Schools

Mr. Detweiler and Ms. Geryk summarized the budget for the Select Board.

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to recommend Article 9 – FY 2011 Operating Budget – Elementary Schools to Town Meeting; Ms. Brewer will be the speaker.

Article 19 – Petition – Energy Outreach Worker

Kevin Collins explained the intention behind his petition article to the Select Board, and the goal of having a staff person help to facilitate energy grants for people in the community. Discussion by the Select Board focused on appreciating the concept but being unwilling to recommend adding a staff member at a time of so many layoffs, and a desire to encourage other ways of achieving a similar result.

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to not recommend **VOTED** unanimously to recommend Article 19 – Petition – Energy Outreach Worker to Town Meeting. Mr. Wald will be the speaker.

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to recommend Article 27 – Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee – Charge Amendment to Town Meeting. Ms. O’Keeffe will be the speaker

Article 22 – Accept MGL 40U – Collection of Unpaid Municipal Fines

This was a Select Board article, proposed to take advantage of the new State law that would let municipalities enhance fee creation and fine collection for various code infractions. Through discussion, it was agreed that the law was too new and the Select Board didn’t have enough information about how this would affect or change current circumstances to be able to recommend moving ahead with it at this time.

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to refer Article 22 – Accept MGL 40U – Collection of Unpaid Municipal Fines back to the Select Board for further study. Ms. Brewer will be the speaker.

Extending the Charge and Membership Terms of the Save Our Stop Task Force

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to amend the charge for the Save Our Stop Task Force by extending the expiration date from May 30, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to amend the charge for the Save Our Stop Task Force by replacing the original objective 3, and adding number 4 and 5 as follows:

3. To work with Northampton, UMass Transit/PVTA and others to plan for dedicated express bus service to the future Northampton AMTRAK stop and to jointly plan for improved future bus access to the Northampton AMTRAK stop site
4. To work with area legislators and MASS DOT to assure significant involvement by Amherst and other affected communities in the feasibility study and planning for inland route improvements between Worcester and Springfield which could provide future passenger rail service rail access between Amherst and Boston via Palmer
5. to continue to work with NECR, UMass, UConn, Palmer and communities and entities in Connecticut and Vermont to establish passenger rail service over the NECR line between Brattleboro and New London with appropriate stops in Vermont (Brattleboro,) Massachusetts (Millers Falls, Amherst, Palmer) and Connecticut (Mansfield/Storrs - UConn, Willimantic, Norwich and other Connecticut Communities south to New London.)

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to extend the membership of the current Save Our Stop task force appointments to expire June 30, 2011.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Shaffer reported on the following:

- Ongoing discussions with other municipalities about the idea of regionalizing dispatch services
- The request to extend the Save Our Stop Task Force’s time, to continue its efforts to advocate for maintaining the local AMTRAK stop and expanding current rail service (votes noted above.)
- Plans for a rail summit on 6/15/10 at the Steaming Tender in Palmer.
- Budget News: Update from the House Ways and Means Committee for 3% municipal aid cut, rather than 4%, as previously projected. Still uncertain, moving target. Ms. O’Keeffe reiterated BCG recommendation that for any revenue variable that swings positive, to subtract that amount from the FY11 tax levy.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ms. O'Keeffe noted that she would propose alternate meeting dates for some upcoming liquor license hearings at the next Select Board meeting.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

There were no licenses or permits considered at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

By consensus, the meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.

-- Respectfully submitted by Stephanie O'Keeffe