

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Present: Alisa Brewer (6:34,) Aaron Hayden, Diana Stein, Stephanie O’Keeffe

Absent: Gerry Weiss

Town Manager Larry Shaffer

Town Staff: Roy Rosenblatt, Community Development Director

Members of the Public: David DeAngelis, Ravindra Beepath, Nancy Gregg

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one from the public sought to comment.

SELECT BOARD’S ACTION

Committee Appointments

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss) to appoint Kevin Eddings to the Committee on Homelessness to fill the unexpired term of Kevin Noonan, with the term to expire June 30, 2012.

Update – Affordable Housing – Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee

Ms. Gregg and Mr. Rosenblatt provided an update on the affordable housing efforts at Olympia Drive. They are looking into the market feasibility of having the planned units be owned rather than rented, with both scenarios having a different effect on the Town’s affordable housing inventory countable under State Law 40B. The HP/FHC Committee is also aware of and supports efforts to house homeless individuals in an SRO with supportive services, and Mr. Rosenblatt spoke about beginning to make plans to address the expiring affordability requirement at Rolling Green.

Update – FY11 Community Preservation Act Funding Process Status

Ms. O’Keeffe said that Ms. Aldrich and Mr. Musante have reviewed the five-year capital plan for items potentially eligible for Community Preservation Act funds. Department heads have been more conscious in recent years about the awareness of CPA as a potential funding source. Ms. Brewer and Ms. Stein provided an update on the CPA Committee’s process of reviewing applications and preparing recommendation for the Spring Town Meeting. It was agreed that if a public hearing to solicit public feedback isn’t already part of that process, one should be encouraged.

Town Manager’s Report

Mr. Shaffer informed the Select Board about the following issues:

- The Annual Employee Holiday party in December
- A presentation he made to retired University professors in December, about the Town’s budget
- A response he is drafting to the PVPC’s report on the Knowledge Corridor study
- An RFP for Kendrick Park design concepts has been drafted and is being finalized
- A meeting with contractors regarding potential future geothermal projects: interesting, and found to be prohibitively expensive (for conversion of Town Hall - approx. \$800K - \$1M) Mr. Hayden said it is technically called “Ground Source Heat Pumps,” not “geothermal.”

- Northampton's recent fire tragedy and Amherst's assistance so far and offer for the future.
- Discussions between Amherst and Northampton to share more health services, including health inspections, for reduced costs and additional revenue
- Appreciation to Terry Rooney and Erika Zekos for the "Shedding Light" project

Update and Discussion: FY11 Budget Plans

Mr. Shaffer gave an update on the status of the FY11 budget creation, scheduled to be presented to a joint meeting of the Select Board and Finance Committee on Friday, January 15 at 4:00 p.m.

Budget Coordinating Group Update

Ms. O'Keeffe reviewed the summary points from the December 17th BCG meeting, and explained the group's process for creating an override recommendation to the Select Board in time for the February ballot language deadline.

Annual Report Update – FY08/FY09

Ms. Brewer provided a status update on the FY08 and FY09 Annual Reports. Both are in progress and the goal is to get them done as soon as possible.

Committee Procedure Update

Ms. Stein suggested that considering all the pressing budget issues, committee handbook issues should be put off until summer. If anyone has a chance to read it beforehand, they can send her comments and she will save them for the future discussions.

Approve Minutes

VOTED: 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss) to approve the minutes of the December 19, 2009 meeting, as amended.

Chair's Report

Ms. O'Keeffe reported on the following:

There will be a Regional Transportation Stakeholders meeting, coordinated by PVPC, in the Town Room on the morning of January 15th; Mr. Shaffer and Ms. O'Keeffe will attend.

Select Board Positions on MMA Proposals

VOTED 3 -1 (Stein) and 1 absent (Weiss) to authorize the chair to cast Amherst's vote in support of MMA's resolution on giving municipalities health care plan design authority

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss) to authorize the chair to cast Amherst's vote in support of the MMA's resolution calling for action to prevent unfunded State mandates in the Police Career Incentive Pay Program (aka Quinn Bill)

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss) to authorize the chair to cast Amherst's vote in support of the MMA's resolution opposing current and future unfunded local mandates

LICENSES AND PERMITS

New Taxi/Chauffeur Drivers Licenses

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss) to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for David DeAngelis, 4 Highland Terrace, Danvers, MA 01923.

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss) to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Ravindra Beepath, 27 Montague Road # 26, Amherst, MA 01002.

Special Wine & Malt License – Amherst College – Homeless Connect

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss) to approve the Special Wine & Malt Liquor License for Amherst College – Homeless Connect for February 20, 2010 from 4:00 p.m. – 2:00 a.m. at the Valentine Dining Hall at Amherst College for a fundraiser.

Special Wine & Malt License – University of Massachusetts

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss) to approve the Special Wine & Malt Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts for February 23, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center for concessions.

Special Wine & Malt License – University of Massachusetts

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss) to approve the Special Wine & Malt Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts for March 2, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center for concessions.

Special Wine & Malt License – University of Massachusetts

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss) to approve the Special Wine & Malt Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts for March 9, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center for concessions.

Special Wine & Malt License – University of Massachusetts

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss) to approve the Special Wine & Malt Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts for March 10, 2010 from 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center for concessions.

Special Wine & Malt License – University of Massachusetts

VOTED 4 in favor, 1 absent (Weiss) to approve the Special Wine & Malt Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts for March 27, 2010 from 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center for concessions.

ADJOURNMENT

By consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 9:39 p.m.

-- Respectfully submitted by Stephanie O'Keeffe