

SELECT BOARD MEETING
Monday, December 20, 2010 – 6:30 p.m.
Town Room, Town Hall

ATTENDANCE

Stephanie O'Keeffe (Chair), Alisa Brewer, Aaron Hayden (Clerk pro-tem), Diana Stein, Jim Wald, John Musante (Town Manager)

OTHERS PRESENTING: John Fox, citizen; Walter Chudzik and Mathew Fuller of WMECO, Kris Pacunas, Amherst IT

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Stephanie O'Keeffe.

John Musante introduced and welcomed incoming Assistant to the Town Manager, Debra Roussel. She is taking Judith Arcamo's place, has more than 10 years experience in local government administration, and will start January 10th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

John Fox expressed his concerns about the Gateway Project, the planned public input process and the agreement between the Town and UMass. He presented a petition signed by 179 residents living in the Gateway neighborhood. They believe that the proposal to hire a consultant to produce a vision for the Gateway area is unwarranted and that the Master Plan does not state that putting student housing there is appropriate. The visits to Hanover and Storrs show non-undergraduate housing, offices and stores and Jonathan Tucker had said the housing would be for graduate students and faculty. They would like help with this conflict.

6:45 NEW BUSINESS LICENSES:

Ms. O'Keeffe

New Taxi Business License – Aaron's Transportation

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Business License for Aaron's Transportation, 409 Main Street, Suite 111, Owner Scott Bellemore.

New Taxi Business License – Taxi Express

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Business License for Taxi Express LLC, 409 Main Street, Suite 214, Owner Abdou Sane.

NEW TAXI DRIVER/CHAUFFEUR LICENSES

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Scott Bellmore – Aaron's Transportation

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Scott Bellmore, 58 Russell Street, Hadley, MA 01035.

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Steven Bellmore – Aaron's Transportation

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Steven Bellmore, 52 Clinton Avenue, Holyoke, MA 01040.

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Daniel C. Bernier – Aaron's Transportation

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Daniel C. Bernier, 36 Jardine Street, Springfield, MA 01107.

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Francis Merrill – Aaron’s Transportation

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Francis Merrill, 9 Liquor Drive, Southwick, MA 01077.

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Matthew Guyotte – Aaron’s Transportation

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Matthew Guyotte, 10 Grant Street, South Hadley, MA 01075.

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Ababacar Seck – Taxi Express

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Ababacar Seck, 16 Damon Road, Northampton, MA 01060.

PUBLIC HEARING: New All-Alcohol License Application – LiT – 41 Boltwood Walk Ms. O’Keeffe

Public hearing opened at 7:02 p.m.

Closed public hearing at 7:15 p.m.

The application is attached. LiT will be a higher end night club for professionals, rather than students. They will still need to get a victualler license and possibly an entertainment license before opening on March 1, 2011. The SB needs to know about its role in Live Entertainment licenses.

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the new All-Alcohol Liquor License for Moti 1, Inc., d/b/a LiT located at 41 Boltwood Walk, manager: Reza Rahmani, operating 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m., seven days a week.

POLE HEARING: WMECO: Governor’s Drive Intersection

Mr. Chudzik/Mr. Fuller

Public hearing opened at 7:20 p.m.

Closed public hearing at 7:35 p.m.

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve WMECO’s request to relocate pole 93/68, T-27, 85 feet north of existing location on the westerly side of North Pleasant Street as shown in DRG No. 6A020154-1484519, dated July 8, 2010.

The Select Board VOTED unanimously WMECO’s request for a new underground cable location on the westerly side of North Pleasant Street extending from the corner of Governors Drive approximately 182’ northerly to an existing pole; also, extending easterly from the corner of Governors Drive approximately 69’ onto Eastman Lane (a UMass street). Referenced in DRG No. 6A020275-1516686, dated July 8, 2010.

A third motion (DRG no. 6A020155-1484520, dated July 8, 2010) was not made, because WMECO had withdrawn that request.

7:40 **PRESENTATION OF NEW TOWN WEB SITE DESIGN**

Mr. Pacunas

Kris Pacunas presented the new Town web site design and gave a brief history of Amherst’s Town government web site. The first version had about fewer than 15 visitors a day. With each new design the numbers of visitors has increased as news and events, public meetings etc. were added. By the third version over 1200 visits

Posted with Town Clerk 12/16/10

per day occurred. Over 500 people get automated notices of postings. Version 4 has on the home page what most visitors want to see and allows people to access services from home. It is a “green” way to function, saving trips to Town Hall and paper. The Select Board would like to get training on posting updates; perhaps the Appointed Committee Hand Book could include instructions for this.

John Musante thanked Kris, who said he needs and would like feedback.

8:05 TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Musante

John Musante reported on:

FY12 Budget Update: Good news in that State tax revenues are beginning to increase; bad news is that the stimulus money is gone. We are looking at level-funded budgets. Two past problem areas are in good shape: Energy efficiency steps have helped to reduce utility budgets - about \$250,000 in annual savings; and little or no increase expected in the health care budget. There will be recommendations for consolidation within the LSSE budget, as efforts continue to align programming with revenues and to transition from significant budget subsidy. More info will be provided at the next meeting, and the budget will be presented 1/14.

Regional Dispatch: He reconvened interested communities; looks to be 9 municipalities plus UMass with potential to move forward. He requested that those wishing to proceed notify him by Feb. 1, and a Memorandum of Understanding will be created for operation and governance of a regional facility. He believes it will save money and improve service for the participating communities, as well as avoiding new costs from expected future Federal mandates.

Taxi Meeting: This was the first such meeting to bring together Police, zoning/code enforcement officials and taxi companies to make companies better aware of regulations and expectations. Select Board members asked about internal capacity/resources to enforce and manage this growing business category, and whether limiting the number of licensed companies might be practical/necessary/legal for improved enforcement. Mr. Musante said there is a push for better coordination across departments who deal with the codes and laws affecting taxi companies and their licensing. He said that the zoning and permitting staff is particularly taxed, making it difficult to stay ahead of the curve on issues like this, but that improvement efforts are being made and continue.

Hawthorne Public Meeting: He reported on the 12/9 public meeting and said that additional meetings would take place in the winter and spring. He reminded everyone that this property was acquired for housing and recreation; other suggestions were made at the meeting.

Social Justice Project: The three-year/\$300K grant is ending, and the project was celebrated at a recent wrap-up event, attended by John, Diana and Alisa. It has had many positive effects on Town staff, including training and improved awareness of negative outcomes associated with racism, sexism and classism. Leslie Saulsberry and Dr. Barbara Love were commended on their work with staff and the community on this project.

CDBG Application: This was submitted to Boston and conformed with the CDC's recommendations as presented to the Select Board. He praised the work of Roy Rosenblatt, Dave Ziomek, Nate Malloy, CDC members and others.

Winter Shelter: Sprinklers have been installed and the inspections have occurred to facilitate granting the seasonal shelter permit, which is expected within the week. The ability to donate to the First Baptist Church via Facebook to help pay for the renovations was noted. The changes to the facilities cost \$100,000 so donations are needed.

Coming Project Attractions: Mr. Musante noted that RFPs are coming due for solar energy generation re-use proposals for former landfill, consultant work for rezoning the North Amherst and Atkins Corner Village Centers, and for a visioning process for the ARA's Gateway project. Per the latter, stakeholders from the community and the neighborhood were encouraged to participate in the process so as to have a formal and constructive voice in what is intended to be a significant enhancement to the area. The consultant can envision a project that satisfies the various stakeholders.

Town Employee Holiday Party: Held recently -- good turnout—over 100 people, and good time. This is the occasion that acknowledges the long-time service of staff members and was an opportunity to celebrate with Bonnie Isman on her last day. Ken O'Brien has the longest service—40 years!

Parking Machines: Staff are reviewing RFP bids for new machines; Parking Task Force will reconvene to consider recommendations to the Select Board. New machines could accept credit cards etc.

LIAISON/MEMBER REPORTS:

Public Shade Tree Committee: Aaron noted that they would be requesting an amendment to their charge in order to increase their membership at the next Select Board meeting.

LSSE Commission: Alisa said that notes from the Hawthorne public meeting were transcribed, and they might put a FAQ list about the property on the web site. The commission is also considering recommendations for the War Memorial Pool and for handling the after-school childcare at all the elementary schools.

Board of Health: Diana said that they determined that no public hearing was needed regarding the Butternut Farm project, and that they had suggested that a citizen follow-up with the State regarding his concerns with the project.

Agricultural Commission: Diana said they are looking for more formalized policies for agricultural activities on Town land; and that farmers face ongoing problems with Realtors failing to notify prospective home buyers about the Town's "Right to Farm" Bylaw, resulting in complaints about the impacts of allowed farm activities (noise and light in early morning, etc.).

Conservation Commission: Stephanie reported that they are working on formalizing land use policies for many kinds of activities on Town land, including agricultural uses

Census 2010: Stephanie said that there would be a press conference on 12/21 with population and Congressional reapportionment data; that local community and redistricting data will begin to be released in February, and that information from the State on any change to local liquor quotas (which are Census-based) are expected in April or May.

Conflict of Interest Info: All were reminded and urged to remind the committees to which they are liaison of the necessity to sign and return to the Town Clerk the page acknowledging receipt of the COI materials

Flag Design Contest: Jim talked about the joint meeting held by the Historical Commission and the Design Review Board to consider the flag design submissions. He said the group preferred a combination of elements from several different designs. He and Diana will coordinate on when and how to make a formal recommendation to the Select Board for us to vote on, and will notify Stephanie of that for scheduling.

9:11 **LICENSES AND PERMITS CONTINUED:**

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Terry Fahey – Gotta Go Taxi

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Terry Fahey, 277 Locust Street, Florence, MA 01062.

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Kim Keegan – Green Transportation, Inc.

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Kim Keegan, 30 Meadowbrook Drive, Sunderland, MA 01375.

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Larry Proseri – Green Transportation, Inc.

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Larry Proseri, 13 New Hampshire Avenue, Three Rivers, MA 01080.

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Backa Niang – Tik Tak Taxi

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Backa Niang, 892 Westhampton Road, Northampton, MA 01062.

Renew Annual Licenses

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to renew the licenses listed on the attached memo dated December 12, 2010, for January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011, subject to the conditions that are attached to the licenses being renewed, with the addition of Joseph Cohen -- 101 Prospect Street, Northampton, MA 01060 -- Gottago Taxi.

9:14 **NEW BUSINESS LICENSES CONTINUED:**

New Common Victualler's License – Lime Red Tea House – 50 Main Street

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the Common Victualler's License for Lime Red Tea House, located at 50 Main Street, Manager -- Joe Deng, operating Monday - Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS

Ms. Brewer/Ms. Stein/Mr. Musante

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to appoint the following:

Sundarii McGrigg, to the Committee on Homelessness for a term to expire on June 30, 2013.

It was noted that all the other Committee on Homelessness appointments end on 2011 and that Alisa and Diana will figure out how best to handle the extension of the other terms for Committee on Homelessness, to standardize them, with consideration of possible staggered terms, and bring the SB a proposal

APPROVE MINUTES

Ms. O'Keeffe

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the September 24, 2010 minutes as amended.

The Select Board VOTED unanimously to approve the November 1, 2010 minutes as amended.

Ms. Stein agreed to incorporate changes and post them.

COMMITTEE HANDBOOK UPDATE

Ms. Stein

The Select Board agreed by consensus that all would read and comment on section 4.0 of the Appointed Committee Handbook for the next meeting. We will make a renewed and concerted effort starting in January to proceed systematically through the updating of this document.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Stephanie reported on the recent meeting she, John and Alisa had with Senator Scott Brown's Western Mass rep, Nick Powers, and on the Chamber's annual holiday party, which Mr. Powers also attended.

ADJOURNMENT

Stephanie O'Keeffe moved to adjourn at 9:39 and the Select Board voted unanimously to do so.

Corrections welcome!

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Stein

List of Documents

(Any documents listed here can be found in the Packet Archive for this meeting date on the Select Board archive section of the Town web site).

Application materials for two new taxi businesses: Aaron's Transportation and Taxi Express

Application materials for new Common Victualler's License: Lime Red Teahouse

Application materials for new All-Alcohol license: LiT

Materials related to the WMECO Pole Hearing

Census Information Update

Annual License Renewal Materials

New Taxi Driver License Application Materials

Draft minutes from 9/24/10 and 11/1/10