

SELECT BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, April 20, 2011 – 6:30 p.m.
Community Room, Amherst Police Department

ATTENDANCE:

Select Board Members: Alisa Brewer, Aaron Hayden, Stephanie O'Keeffe, Diana Stein and Jim Wald

Town Manager: John Musante

Members of the Public: Larry Kelley

Call to Order

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

Public Comment

Resident Larry Kelley urged the Select Board to improve the Wi-Fi signal in the Police Station Community Room.

Select Board members requested Town Manager include rewiring of meeting rooms to include First Floor Meeting Room, Police Station Community Room and Bangs Center in future capital plans to accommodate live broadcast. Mr. Musante agreed to explore, noting funding may be available through Comcast cable contract.

Proposed Resolution - Oppose Vermont Yankee's License Extension

VOTED unanimously to support a resolution presented by Tom Lindeman and Dick Stein opposing extension of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear license, with the following amendments: to change "Town Clerk" to "Select Board" in the instruction paragraph at the end, and to insert the following clauses immediately preceding "Therefore":

- "Whereas we recognize that shutting down Vermont Yankee could increase our reliance on other dangerous, destructive and unsustainable sources of power and
- Whereas Amherst is actively taking the steps to replace the power that would have been supplied to it by Vermont Yankee and so make it unnecessary to shift the source of energy to other dangerous, destructive and unsustainable sources"

FY 12 Budget Update and Discussion

Mr. Musante reported that both the House Ways and Means budget and the Local Aid Resolution passed by the Senate confirm the Chapter 70 and Unrestricted Local Aid figures proposed by the Governor in January, resulting in a cut of approximately a half a million dollars to Amherst, rather than the \$1.7 million projected last fall. As a result, the Town will be able to fund items on the Budget Coordinating Group's (BCG) recommended Restoration List, totaling approximately \$1.2 million, leaving only two identified capital projects totaling about \$18,000 unfunded (new exterior doors at Fort River and Wildwood) unless additional State Aid is received. It was noted BCG has recommended that if State Aid is received in excess of the \$18,000, it is to go to reserves.

VOTED unanimously to support the Budget Coordinating Group's Recommended Revisions for Items to be included in FY 12 Budget, as presented in the Restoration List dated April 14, 2011.

Warrant Articles

May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 13 – Amherst Pelham Regional School District Assessment Method; Diana Stein to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 14 - Elementary School Operating Budget in the amount of \$20,758,598; Alisa Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 14 - Regional Schools Operating Budget in the amount of \$28,214,835 with an Amherst assessment of \$13,506,166; Alisa Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 14 - Library Services Operating Budget in the amount of \$2,192,736 with the Town tax support share of that budget in the amount of \$1,644,736; Jim Wald to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 14 - Public Safety Operating Budget in the amount of \$8,497,470; Diana Stein to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 14 – Public Works Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,941,230; Aaron Hayden to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 14 – Conservation and Development Operating Budget in the amount of \$885,862; Alisa Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 14 – Community Services Operating Budget in the amount of \$1,510,152; Alisa Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 14 – General Government Operating Budget in the amount of \$6,091,477; Aaron Hayden to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 14 – FY 12 Operating Budget – Debt Service budget in the amount of \$1,890,852; Diana Stein to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 14 – Water Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$3,685,975; Alisa Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 14 – FY 12 Operating Budget – Sewer Fund budget in the amount of \$3,432,604; Alisa Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 14 – Solid Waste Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$549,716; Aaron Hayden to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 14 – Transportation Fund Operating Budget in the amount of \$977,045; Alisa Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 15 – Reserve Fund in the amount of \$100,000; Diana Stein to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 16 – Capital Program - Chapter 90; Jim Wald to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 17 – Capital Program - Equipment in the amount of \$846,456; Diana Stein to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 18 – Capital Program - Buildings and Facilities in the amount of \$1,005,500; Jim Wald to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 19 – Capital Program - Bond Authorization for Water Treatment Facility in the amount of \$4,000,000; Alisa Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board at Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend dismissal of May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 22 – Free Cash.

VOTED unanimously to recommend dismissal of May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting Article 23 – Stabilization Fund.

Board members requested maps for Articles 20c, 21 and 25 scheduled for review at the next Select Board meeting.

Town Flag Design

VOTED unanimously to proceed with the Town Flag design and production as detailed in Diana's memo titled "Amherst Flag Update" dated April 15, 2011; six flags plus the State House flag will be produced, with others having the option to purchase more at the quantity discount once a design is chosen and the ordering is announced, or on their own thereafter; otherwise the Select Board will not be actively seeking additional purchasers.

Town Manager's Report

Town Manager John Musante reported ZBA approved **Olympia Oaks** comprehensive permit application on 4/14, conditioned on approval from Conservation Commission on the subject of wetlands and drainage issues. Mr. Musante noted many thanks to the project developer HAP Housing, the Conservation and Planning staff, in particular Jeff Bagg, and the Zoning Board of Appeals for their hard work.

Mr. Musante and Chair Stephanie O'Keeffe met on April 15 with **UMass Chancellor** Robert Holub and top administrators to discuss issues of mutual interest, including the Gateway Redevelopment process, neighborhood issues and initiatives, Mullins Center events, the planned Innovation Institute, Commencement, student move-in procedures, and others. Ms. Brewer remarked on the initiative by UMass to have similar discussions with the community at a recent forum and the intent to hold a similar forum each semester.

Mr. Musante met on April 15 with Senator Rosenberg, Chair Stephanie O'Keeffe, representatives from WMECO, and Amherst Media representatives to discuss the timeline for **Amherst Media's** move to a new location from their current leased space on College Street owned by WMECO. Mr. Musante highlighted the longstanding positive partnership and flexibility of WMECO, reporting that a one-year extension to August 2012 is planned, along with a goal to relocate to a new, permanent site within that time and avoid the costs to Amherst Media related to relocating to a temporary site in the interim.

Mr. Musante also commented on his attendance and remarks at the **Lamplighter Awards Ceremony** held April 14 at UMass by the Campus & Community Coalition to Reduce High-Risk Drinking where the Select Board received an award for its leadership, commitment, and contributions to create positive change in the community.

Upcoming activities consist of Sustainability Festival Saturday on the Common, Arbor Day activities and opening of Farmers Market on April 23.

Member Reports

Diana Stein reported: **Board of Health's** new well regulations took effect March 15 and that appropriate notifications had been made; Carol Hepburn and Michael Katz were nominated as Animal Inspectors and a new Assistant Sanitarian has been hired to fill a vacancy; a **National Drug Take Back Day** scheduled for 4/30 at Wildwood School from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. -- medications can be dropped off for incineration, no questions asked; **Let's Move Amherst** event, to encourage children and families to be more active, to be held 4/30 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Amherst College; reorganization of DPW with a new Tree and Parks Division was discussed at a recent **Personnel Board** meeting; she and several other Select Board members and Mr. Musante attended last

week's **Chamber Breakfast**, where Superintendent Maria Geryk spoke; **5K Daffodil Run to be** held May 1st, beginning at 11:00 a.m. in Kendrick Park, as a fundraiser to benefit Big Brothers/Big Sisters; **Voices from Chernobyl will** be held 4/25 at 7:00 p.m., at Grace Church, noting Gerry Weiss is one of the participants

Aaron Hayden reported that the **Amherst Redevelopment Authority** stakeholder meetings for the Gateway Redevelopment Project have been held and the public meetings will be held April 28th - 30th; the full schedule of meetings and locations is available on the ARA page of the Town website.

Alisa Brewer reported that **LSSE Commission** is meeting next week to talk about joint recommendations to the Town Manager with HP/FHC planned regarding the Hawthorne property; **Committee on Homelessness** talking about end-of-shelter-season activities, including annual report to the Select Board, which they will submit in May, after Town Meeting; number of **Committee Vacancies** need to be advertised, as well as the expected vacancies which will occur when terms expire at the end of June, so people are encouraged to apply; Alisa noted that discussions are forthcoming on improving Citizen Activity Forms (**CAFs**) so that they capture relevant information, without having to be considered protected employment documents, recommendations will be forthcoming.

Stephanie O'Keeffe reported the 4/27 **Conservation Commission** meeting to discuss the draft policy to allow agricultural use of conservation land is a public meeting and encouraged interested farmers and abutters to attend; 20th anniversary Puffer's Pond Pancake Breakfast, an event that raises most of the money to fund summer staff at Puffer's is scheduled for 6/7 [Note: correct date is 6/4]; the recent Growing More Food in Amherst event is now available on the Amherst Media website; the recommendation by the **Campus & Community Coalition** Municipal Strategies Subcommittee to affirm that the Code of Student Conduct applies to off-campus behavior and to alter ambiguous language on that point has been endorsed by the Code Review Commission and is part of its report to Jean Kim, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs.

Chair's Report

Ms. O'Keeffe noted her appreciation that UMass Administrators Todd Diacon and Nancy Buffone had arranged a meeting with she and the Town Manager to brief them on the Code of Student Conduct report before it was issued; that she had participated in an interview with Ed Blaguszewski of the UMass News Office for two campus videos: a Town-Gown version to be shown at the Chancellor's reception on May 6th, and a version to be used as part of new student orientation; that she is accepting invitations to talk about the warrant on WMUA's Focus program, May 1st, which Diana Stein reported she will also participate in; a committee appointment to review the Chancellor's job performance May 3rd, which Mr. Musante was also invited; and to be the Rotary Club's lunch speaker on 6/30. Ms. Brewer noted that there will be community events held for others to provide feedback on the Chancellor's performance as well.

Members were reminded to bring the town meeting warrant and the CPAC report, which was included in this evening's packet, to the next meeting for discussion.

Parking Request – Community Fair

VOTED unanimously to approve the request from the Amherst Rotary Club for the following street closing and relaxed parking enforcement for the Community Fair:

- No parking on the westerly side of Boltwood Avenue from Spring Street to College Street beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2011 to midnight on Saturday, May 21, 2011.
- Close the Spring Street parking lot to all parking on Friday, May 20, 2011 from 2:00 p.m. to midnight and on Saturday, May 21, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. (following the Farmer's Market) to midnight.
- 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 19, 2011, and from 8:00 a.m. to midnight on Friday, May 20, 2011 and Saturday, May 21, 2011.

Seasonal Liquor Licenses

VOTED unanimously to renew the Seasonal Wine and Malt Liquor License for Cherry Hill Golf Course, 323 Montague Road (Manager: Barb Bilz) for April 1, 2011 – December 31, 2011 and for Amherst Cinema, 28 Amity Street (Manager Carol M. Johnson) for April 1, 2011 – January 15, 2012 .

Taxi License Transfer

VOTED unanimously to transfer the Taxi Driver/Chauffer License from Gottogo Taxi Company to Ziqui Taxi Company for Patrick Kayego, 59 Skyline Drive, West Springfield, MA 01109.

Special Liquor Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve the Special Wine & Malt Liquor Licenses for Brenda Ryan-Newton on behalf of UMass Amherst on the following dates, locations, dates, times and purposes, as follows:

April 25, 2011	3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Stockbridge Hall	Reception
April 28, 2011	5:30 – 9:00 p.m.	Duboise Library – 26 th floor	Dinner
May 3, 2011	6:30 – 10:00 p.m.	Fine Arts Center	Concessions
May 17, 2011	4:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Isenberg SOM	Concessions

Appointments

VOTED unanimously to appoint Julia Mahoney to the Kanegasaki Sister City Committee with a term to expire June 30, 2013.

Minutes

Mr. Musante brought forth discussion on current arrangement for recording meeting minutes by Board members. Members agreed the existing practice limits members' participation in meetings, takes time away from other Board responsibilities outside of meetings, and contributes to a delay in having minutes approved. Mr. Musante offered to have office staff draft minutes from his notes on a simplified Motion Sheet and from Ms. O'Keeffe's Post Meeting List. Board members agreed to this approach on a trial basis.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by John Musante and Debra Roussel.

List of Documents Distributed at the Meeting:

[Final Agenda 04-20-2011](#)

[Motions 04-20-2011](#)

[Amherst Cinema Request](#)

[Amherst Flag Update](#)

[BCG Budget Recommendations](#)

[Community Fair May, 2011 Town Common Request](#)

[Community Fair Parking Request](#)

[CPAC Annual Report to Town Meeting FY 12](#)

[Kanaegasaki Committee Appointment Letter](#)

[Kayego Taxi License Transfer](#)

[Memo from Aaron Hayden](#)

[Recommendations for Agricultural Use of Conservation Land - Public Meeting](#)

[Seasonal Liquor License Renewal Applications](#)

[Seasonal Liquor License Renewal Approval by Chief of Police](#)

[Special "One Day" Liquor Licenses – UMass](#)

[Special "One Day" Liquor Licenses – UMass II](#)

[UMass Chancellor Performance Review Meeting](#)

[VT Yankee Resolution Proposed](#)

Jones Library Draft Proposed FY 12 Budget dated April 20, 2011

Amherst Public Schools FY 12 Budget presentation dated April 20, 2011

Amherst Pelham Regional School District FY 12 Budget presentation dated April 20, 2011