

SELECT BOARD MEETING
Monday, January 10, 2011 – 6:30 p.m.
Town Room, Town Hall

MINUTES

Select Board Members: Stephanie O’Keeffe, Diana Stein, Alisa Brewer and Aaron Hayden.

Staff: John P. Musante

Absent: Jim Wald

Meeting called to order by Ms. O’Keeffe at 6:31 p.m.

Ms. O’Keeffe made two announcements:

Annual MLK Jr. Breakfast being held Saturday, 1/15; Winter Farmers Market in Northampton this week not at Middle School; North Amherst Farmers Market still on at Swartz Farm

Announcement: nomination papers for the 3/29 Annual Town Election are available and due back by 2/8 at 5:00 p.m.

SELECT BOARD’S ACTION

Public Hearing: New Stockholder – Amherst Brewing Co.

Public hearing opened at 6:44 p.m.

Public hearing closed at 6:45 p.m.

4 to 0, 1 absent (Wald) to approve the addition of Clayton Leonard of 150 Sunderland Road, Amherst, as a new stockholder to the Amherst Brewing Co. liquor license.

Presentation: Municipal Aggregation of Electricity

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 absent (Wald) to approve appointing John Musante as the Select Board's representative to the Hampshire Council of Governments to explore municipal aggregation of electricity as an option for residential customers as per the April 30, 2001, Town Meeting vote. (John will coordinate with Energy Task Force as part of this consideration)

Amend Charge: Public Shade Tree Committee

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 absent (Wald) to increase the membership of the Public Shade Tree Committee from five to seven members.

Board requested Ms. Brewer and Stein coordinate with the Public Shade Tree Committee to update and standardize its charge, with a recommendation to be brought to a future Select Board meeting

Advocating for the Holyoke Range State Parks

4 to 0, 1 absent (Wald) to send a letter to House and Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairs Representative Charles Murphy and Senator Steven Panagiotakos, copying Ellen Story and Stan Rosenberg, advocating for the restoration of funding to DCR's park operations in the State budget for FY12.

Board requested Ms. Brewer and Stein coordinate with Elisa Campbell and others as necessary to once again formalize Amherst's representation on the Mt. Holyoke Range Advisory Committee.

Accept High Street Utility Easements

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 absent (Wald) to accept the Utility Easements from Claudette Boudreau & James Fleming of 105 Gray Street as shown on the drawing labeled “Town of Amherst Utility Easement # 105 Gray Street” dated April 14, 2010; Marjorie Babb of 92 High Street as shown on the drawing labeled “Town of Amherst Utility Easement # 92 High Street” dated April 14, 2010 and Michael L. Chernoff and Jaymie M. Chernoff of 97 Gray Street, as shown on the drawing labeled "Town of Amherst Utility Easement # 97 Gray" dated April 14, 2010.

Superintendent Mooring will return to discuss an additional easement for Thurber/Shriber on High Street when completed.

Town Manager's Report

FY12 Budget Preview

Level funded per FC guidelines; 4th year of state aid cuts; reduced staff by 10% (25 positions) over past 3 years; noted: discussions with municipal unions on new contracts, which are due to expire 6/30/10;

Good news: health insurance and utilities

Some additional cuts: LSSE

Despite fiscal challenges, Amherst poised for positive action in 2011-2012

Regionalization of dispatch

Explore regionalization/shared services for public health services

Kendrick Park – a new public park for Amherst

\$4.5 M of road improvements: only address 25% of \$21M backlog, but will have significant impact

Atkins Corner road improvements and Atkins Farms expansion begins

Lord Jeff Inn to re-open

Boltwood Place breaks ground in January

Business Improvement District

Gateway Project

Neighborhood stabilization/code enforcement initiatives

North Amherst and Atkins Corner rezoning

Solar Energy – goal: TOA as regional leader in renewable energy

New website and many, many e-government initiatives: Citizen self service, e-notifications, online billing,

Next Steps: Solar Options at Former Landfill; New Downtown Parking Machines

6 bids received; review panel Energy Task Force, DPW/Recycling, Conservation and LSSE.

Parking machine demonstration scheduled week of January 17, 2011.

Federal Fire Grant

FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant - \$55,852 plus \$2,900 local match for emergency communications equipment.

Update: Kendrick Park

Public Invited to Review Possible Designs Jan 27, details to be announced.

Studying "Green Community" Designation

Energy Task Force studying Green Communities" Designation for possible application Summer of 2011. Ms. Stein requested at time of recommendation, they include explanation of pros and cons.

Recent & Upcoming Activity

Debra Roussel, new Assistant to the Town Manager began work today; Finance Director interviews to begin. Board offered thanks to Libby Lass for helping in the Select Board office over the last few months and to Conservation/Planning/Inspections Department for lending her to us. Update on recent Breaking and Entering, noting regional effort including District Attorney and State Police. Lock doors and windows and call Police. Ms. O'Keeffe noted concern in community about false alarm bylaw with risk of fines, particularly during current spate of B & E's. Also, concern about whether public safety cuts have left us under staffed to deal adequately with issues. Mass DOT meeting week of January 24, 2011 regarding Meadow Street/Route 116 Intersection. Gateway Project joint presentation to ARA on January 18, 2011 with Deputy Chancelor Todd Diacon.

Vote Positions on MMA Resolutions

Resolution Calling for Health Insurance Plan Design Authority for Cities and Towns

4 to 0, 1 absent (Wald) to authorize the Chair to vote at the MMA annual meeting in support of the proposed Resolution on Transportation Finance and Administration.

Member Reports

ARA: Mr. Hayden reported that RFPs had been received for the public visioning process, and that Town Counsel had advised that they must be handled in Executive Session rather than in Open Session

Flag Contest: Ms. Stein reported that a draft composite design, including elements of multiple design submissions, had been created for consideration by the Historical Commission and Design Review Board; they will meet together soon to consider and a recommendation may be ready for the SB's next meeting. Once a design is chosen, Ms. Stein will follow up with the Rotary Club to see if they are interested in funding its production

Zoning Subcommittee: Ms. Stein reported that they had reviewed their priorities of what to pursue for spring Town Meeting, based on citizen feedback and ability to complete in time; they are also looking at the issue of expedited permitting per the Green Communities criteria, and residential parking requirements. Ms. Brewer requested that ZSC be asked to post an updated priorities list in advance of future zoning forums.

CPAC: Ms. Stein reported that they have received proposals and are compiling a list of follow-up questions; a hearing schedule for those proposals is expected, and the SB will be informed about any capital proposals that might qualify for CPA funding.

LSSE & HP/FHC: Ms. Brewer reported that the two committees plan a joint meeting to discuss the Hawthorne property. Also: Valley CDC and HAP held a community meeting at Jones Library to present and answer questions about the Olympia Drive project; noted: those who missed that presentation can get a similar overview by watching the 1/5 Planning Board meeting.

Committee Charges: Ms. Stein noted the difficulty in dealing with committee charges because they exist in an inconvenient format. She requested that someone might volunteer to type them. Mr. Musante indicated that getting a better handle on the status of the charges as the office transition continues will help to clarify this issue, and suggested holding off on any large-scale retyping until then, as it may not be necessary.

Appointed Committee Handbook

Noted that issues needing to be addressed in the Appointed Committee Handbook, section 4.0 include:

- updating of the OML information in all appropriate subsections;
- a policy recommendation on acceptable meeting dates, vis-a-vis weekends, holidays, snow days - must comport with OML;
- a policy recommendation on acceptable meeting locations: only Town facilities or allowing other under certain circumstances - must comport with OML;
- better information about the the ultimate storage and accessibility of minutes - must comport with OML;
- recommendations on handling issues like agenda posting, making copies and reserving meeting rooms, and that staff liaison feedback on those recommendations and the rest of the document will be sought when we are farther along with our draft revisions;
- improved guidance on what must be in minutes and what doesn't need to be (i.e., names of movers and seconders) - must comport with OML;

That Ms. Brewer will provide the OML info and that Mr. Hayden will provide his original edit suggestions to Ms. Stein; and

That Ms. Stein will update section 4.0 for 1/24, and that we will determine how best to proceed; we aren't moving ahead to section 5.0 yet.

Approve Minutes

3 to 0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to approve the minutes of October 18, 2010 as amended.

3 to 0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to approve the minutes of December 6, 2010 as amended.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – John J. Rossner – Aaron’s Transportation

VOTED 3 to 0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for John J. Rossner, 12 Spring Street, Amherst, MA 01002.

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License – Charles Bowes – Green Transportation

VOTED 3 to 0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Charles Bowes, 123 Boston Road, Palmer, MA 01069.

Special Liquor License – Town of Amherst

VOTED 3 to 0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to approve the Special All Alcohol Liquor License for the Town of Amherst, for February 12, 2011 from 12:00 PM – 7:00 PM at the Cherry Hill Golf Course, for Winterfest 2011.

Renew Annual Licenses

VOTED 3 to 0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to renew the licenses listed on the attached memo dated January 6, 2011, for January 1, 2011 to December 31, 2011, subject to the conditions that are attached to the licenses being renewed.

Committee Appointments

3 to 0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to approve the appointment of Pat Holland as the Library Trustees’ representative to the Personnel Board, for a term to expire on June 30, 2013.

Executive Session

VOTED by roll call vote, O’Keeffe, Aye; Hayden, Aye; Brewer, Aye and Stein, Aye to go into Executive Session per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, section 21, part a, subset 3: to discuss strategy in relation to collective bargaining because an open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position. Open session will NOT reconvene at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Adjourned 9:35 p.m.

Submitted by Stephanie O’Keeffe, Chair

Documents Submitted At Meeting

01-10-11 Motions Revised
Municipal Aggregation of Electricity
Town Meeting Vote 04-30-01
Amend Charge – PSTC
Amherst Letter for DCR
High Street Sewer Easement Acceptance
Easement
Revised Motion for High Street Easements
Federal Fire Grant
Proposed Resolution Health Ins Plan Design Authority
Taxi Driver License – Rossner
SB Draft Minutes – 10-18-2010 and 12-06-2010
Special One Day Liquor License
Committee Appointment
2011 Annual Renewals
2011 Liquor License Quota Report