

SELECT BOARD MEETING
Monday, October 3, 2011 – 6:30 p.m.
Town Room, Town Hall

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Members Present: Stephanie O’Keeffe, Alisa Brewer, Aaron Hayden, Diana Stein and Jim Wald

Members Absent:

Staff: Acting Town Manager Dave Ziomek

Other participants: Larry Kelley, Vince O'Connor, Reikka Simula Gooden, Hwei-Ling Greeney, Isaac BenEzra, Guilford Mooring (DPW Superintendent), Claire McGinnis (Collector and Treasurer)

Meeting called to order by Ms. O’Keeffe at 6:38 p.m.

Public Comment: Larry Kelley asked the Select Board to respond in writing about the article in the paper featuring students who expressed their belief that rowdy partying is their right and neighbors should expect it.

Vince O'Connor asked about the status of the Spring Street parking lot, expressing concerns about the potential to use such a big chunk of CDBG funding on Main Street reconstruction and recommended that the Board urge postponement of the form based zoning warrant article.

Reikka Simula Gooden encouraged the Select Board to include homeless or formerly homeless people in the membership for the new sheltering/housing committee.

Hwei-Ling Greeney emphasized the need to create housing for people with extremely low income.

Future of Cooley Dickinson Hospital Resolution

It was agreed without formal vote that Board members would send comments to Ms. Stein regarding other points they would like to see included in the Cooley-Dickinson Hospital resolution, which she will incorporate in preparation for approval and signing at the October 17 meeting.

Article 1 – Reports of Boards and Committees

VOTED unanimously to recommend November 7, 2011 Special Town Meeting Article for Reports of Boards and Committees. Ms. Stein will speak to the article on behalf of the Select Board.

Article 2 – Additional Appropriation for Water Department

VOTED unanimously to recommend November 7, 2011 Special Town Meeting Article for an additional appropriation of \$100,000 for a total of \$4,201,543 for FY 12 Water Department Operating Budget from Water Fund free cash balance for 1100 water meter radio read devices. Mr. Hayden will speak to the article on behalf of the Select Board. It was requested the motion for Town Meeting include the purpose of the additional appropriation.

Article 7 – Acceptance of Affordable Housing Restriction

VOTED unanimously to recommend November 7, 2011 Special Town Meeting Article to Authorize Acceptance of an Affordable Housing Restriction for the Olympia Drive CDBG Funded Units. Ms. Brewer will speak to the article on behalf of the Select Board.

Article 8 – Acceptance of Local Option Abandoned Property

VOTED unanimously to recommend November 7, 2011 Special Town Meeting Article for Acceptance of MGL c200A, §9A Abandoned Property. Ms. Stein will speak to the article on behalf of the Select Board.

Article 12 – Pelham Road Bridge Project Easements

VOTED unanimously to recommend November 7, 2011 Special Town Meeting Article for acceptance of temporary easements for the Pelham Road Bridge Project. Mr. Hayden will speak to the article on behalf of the Select Board.

Article 13 – Snell Street Bridge Project Easements

Prior to discussion on the article, Mr. Hayden disclosed that he is employed by Amherst College, the grantor of the easement.

VOTED unanimously to recommend November 7, 2011 Special Town Meeting Article for acceptance of temporary easements for the Snell Street Bridge Project. Mr. Hayden will speak to the article on behalf of the Select Board.

Article 14 – Atkins Corner Project Easements

Prior to discussion, Mr. Wald Prior disclosed that he is employed by Hampshire College, grantor of the easement.

VOTED unanimously to recommend November 7, 2011 Special Town Meeting Article for acceptance of permanent easements for the Atkins Corner Project. Ms. Stein will speak to the article on behalf of the Select Board.

Article 15 – Boltwood Walk Sewer Relocation Easements

VOTED unanimously to recommend November 7, 2011 Special Town Meeting Article for release of a sewer easement in former location and acceptance of new easement. Mr. Hayden will speak to the article on behalf of the Select Board.

CDBG Advisory Group Charge

Board reviewed draft charge presented. Board members agreed without formal vote that Ms. O’Keeffe will incorporate the suggested revisions into the draft charge for the CDBG Advisory Group, for approval at the next meeting. Ms. Brewer will send the document to Stephanie.

Acting Town Manager’s Report: Mr. Ziomek reported on the following:

Town Manager Update: No change in condition; Mr. Ziomek continues to keep Mr. Musante informed.

Rambling Road Closure: Atkins Corner work continues to proceed ahead of schedule. During West Bay Road work, the new loop road around Atkins will be used. Superintendent Mooring determined that keeping the closure of Rambling Road in place until at least October 21 was necessary, however, he will continue to monitor the situation.

Community Field/War Memorial Pool: Much improvement has taken place including new comfort station expected to open soon, railings installed on lower level playground for improved accessibility per ADA guidelines. An application for a PARC grant was submitted to fund pool repairs. Town Meeting will be asked to appropriate money either in anticipation of 70% reimbursement from the grant if the application is successful or to fund the full repair costs if the grant is not successful. Mr. Ziomek indicated grant status is expected to be known prior to Town Meeting, acknowledging an aggressive timeline is in place to enable the pool opening next June.

Spring St. and Spring St. Lot update: Will have info to report on the status of that for next meeting

Shelter Contract: Awarded to Craig’s Doors; contract details being finalized with expectation of completion within week or so.

FY 13 Budget Policy Guidelines Discussion

After discussion, Board members agreed without formal vote that Ms. O’Keeffe will incorporate the suggested revisions and ideas into the next draft version of the FY 13 Budget Policy Guidelines, for consideration at the October 17 meeting.

Sheltering/Housing Committee Charge

After further discussion, Board members agreed without formal vote that Ms. O’Keeffe is to incorporate the suggested revisions and ideas into the next draft version of the charge for the new sheltering/housing committee, for consideration at the October 17 meeting.

Member Reports

Recycling and Refuse Mgt Committee: Mr. Hayden reported that the Committee will hold a forum October 19 at 7:00 p.m. at the Amherst Media studios, to address future changes to the Town's trash and recycling situation, necessitated by closure of the transfer station.

Town Meeting Coordinating Committee: Mr. Hayden reported that the Committee is working on changes to the TMCC election process, as well as seeking improvements to the audio situation in the auditorium, including a request to the Town to purchase new wireless microphones.

Habitat - Stanley St. Event: Ms. Stein reported that several Select Board members attended the event marking completion of the project to build four Habitat homes on land donated by Amherst College. Ms. Stein commented on the homes and how appreciative all parties were for the involvement of so many in the project. Ms. O'Keeffe noted the appreciation expressed at the event to the Town and Town Meeting for the donation of CDBG funds, \$40,000 per house. Ms. Brewer noted appreciation for the participation of Amherst College students in building the homes.

UMass Police Station Ribbon Cutting: Ms. Stein reported that several Select Board members attended the ribbon-cutting event for the new UMass Police Station. Those that attended commented on the ceremony and subsequent tour of the facility. Ms. Brewer distributed commemorative "challenge coins" for the members who were not able to attend.

Liaison List: Ms. O'Keeffe reported that she had recently updated the liaison list printed on the back side of the agenda each week, however had inadvertently included an older version this week.

Council on Aging: Ms. O'Keeffe reported that the Bertucci's fundraiser was scheduled for Tuesday, October 4, 2011 from 5:30 to 9:00 p.m., with 15% of your dinner check to benefit the Friends of the Amherst Senior Center.

Taxi Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffer License for Steven Robert Smejkal, Shelburne Falls, MA on behalf of Aaron's Transportation.

VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffer License for Deanna Morrissette, Springfield, MA on behalf of Ziqui Taxi Company.

VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffer License for Hassan Oulbeid, Easthampton, MA on behalf of Tiznit Valley Cab.

VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffer License for James Lashway, Belchertown, MA on behalf of Green Transportation, Inc.

VOTED unanimously to approve the new Taxi Driver/Chauffer License for Rosangela B. Marques, Amherst, MA on behalf of Ziqui Taxi Company.

Special Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve All Alcoholic License for Greg Wardlaw and Danielle Laferrier, on behalf of Amherst College Catering for a cash bar at the Class of 1952 Reunion to be held at the Lewis Sebring Commons in Valentine Hall, Amherst College from 4:00 – 11:00 p.m. Friday, October 7, 2011.

Committee Appointments

VOTED unanimously to reappoint John Bamberger, o the Public Transportation and Bicycle Committee for a two-year term to begin October 3, 2011 and expire June 30, 2013.

VOTED unanimously to appoint Honore David, 11 Indian Pipe Lane, Amherst, MA to the Amherst Cultural Council for a three year term beginning October 3, 2011 and expire June 30, 2014.

VOTED unanimously to rescind the appointment of Joann Chandler to the Amherst Cultural Council, whose term was to begin on the date of appointment September 26, 2011 and run through June 30, 2014. Ms. O’Keeffe noted Ms. Chandler had decided that she was unable to serve at this time.

Executive Session - Moved that the Select Board go into Executive Session per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, section 21, part a, subset 3: to discuss strategy with respect to litigation regarding the Landfill Solar Project, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of this public body. Open session will NOT reconvene at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

Roll Call Vote: O’Keeffe, Aye; Stein, Aye; Wald, Aye; Brewer, Aye; Hayden, Aye.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra A. Roussel, Assistant to the Town Manager

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting

10-03-2011 Draft Motions Revised
Draft Proclamation Cooley Dickinson Hospital
Memo from Collector related to Abandoned Property (Checks and Tailings)
Draft Warrant Special Town Meeting November 7, 2011
FY 13 Budget guidelines timeline and discussion, dated October 3, 2011
FY 13 Budget guidelines with Ms.Stein’s recommendations
Proposed SHC Charge – Ms. O’Keeffe
Proposed SHC Charge – Ms. Stein
Greeney further comments on Committee Charge
Attachment for Greeney comments
CDBG Advisory Committee Charge Draft
Calendar: Public Meeting Notice – Conservation Land Management
Amherst College Special License Application
Taxi Driver Licenses: Smejkal, Morrissette, Oulbeid, Lashway and Margues.