

MINUTES

Present: Stephanie O’Keeffe, Alisa Brewer, Aaron Hayden, James Wald and Diana Stein.

Absent: None

Staff: Town Manager John Musante; DPW Superintendent Guilford Mooring, and Conservation and Development Director Dave Ziomek

Other: None

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

Public Comment

None offered.

Taxi Business Requirements Expected in 2013

Ms. O’Keeffe explained that for reasons of safety, consumer protection, fairness to all taxi businesses and regulatory efficiency, it is expected that the Town will require taxis licensed in Amherst to use fare meters as of January 1, 2013. The announcement is intended to provide ample notice to taxi businesses about the impending change, noting that there will be a process for feedback on the regulation changes, as the new recommendations are being formulated. Ms. O’Keeffe noted that the Police Chief, the Building Commissioner and staff in the Select Board/Town Manager’s office deal most closely with Taxi regulation issues and will be creating the formal recommendation for the Select Board. While feedback will be sought as the recommendation process moves forward, the Select Board welcomes any thoughts and suggestions to the on this issue.

Taxi Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve a new Taxi Driver/Chauffer License for Jim Johnson of Leeds, MA on behalf of Gottago Taxi Company;

VOTED unanimously to approve a new Taxi Driver/Chauffer License for Jasper Lapienski of Northampton, MA on behalf of Tiznet Valley Cab Company.

VOTED unanimously to approve a new Taxi Driver/Chauffer License for Irina I. Vlasenko of Amherst, MA on behalf of Celebrity Cab Company.

VOTED unanimously to approve a new Taxi Driver/Chauffer License for Damon Reeves of Hadley, MA and Kevin James of Springfield, MA for Ziqui Taxi Company.

Renew Annual Licenses - 2012

VOTED unanimously to approve the list of renewals for taxi business and driver’s licenses presented, dated December 12, 2011, subject to receipt of documentation of items noted as outstanding for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012.

Sign Placement

Mr. Mooring explained the request from Mass DOT to install the signs as indicated on the map provided as part of an effort to mark a regional bike path. Mr. Mooring noted the DPW supports the plan and had no issues with the requested placement sites.

VOTED unanimously to approve the placement of signs to mark a regional bike path in the Town way, as requested by The Collaborative, William Schwartz, V.P., on behalf of MA Department of Transportation in a letter dated December 8, 2011.

Change of Manager: Sodexo Management, Hampshire College

Mr. Wald disclosed prior to the vote that he is employed by Hampshire College.

VOTED unanimously to approve a Change of Manager from Douglas Sudnick to John R. Davis on behalf of Sodexo Management, Hampshire College; License # 002400104.

Board members requested that the change in manager process receive the standard background check by the Police Chief, however did not want to make the motion contingent upon the requirement in this instance, so as to not risk hindering the ABCC process with our motion language.

Special Liquor License

VOTED unanimously to approve a Special Wine and Malt License for Meredith Schmidt on behalf of UMass Amherst for a reception to be held at the Isenberg School of Business from 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. December 15, 2011.

Parking Reservation Request

VOTED unanimously to approve the request of Ideal Movers on behalf of Eaglecrest Property Management for reservation of three meters in front of 73 Main Street and three meters in front of 55 North Pleasant Street on January 10, 2012, with a fee of \$5.00 for each meter for the day.

Land Acceptance

Mr. Ziomek explained that this parcel has long been identified for conservation on the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and Community Preservation Act funds were approved for this purchase at the 2011 Annual Town Meeting.

It was noted that the 234 Market Hill Road address for the Stosz property is an identifier attached to the parcel with the house, and is not the acreage being accepted by the Town; the 18 acres purchased by the Town surrounds the house parcel.

VOTED unanimously to accept the deed from John and Susan Stosz to property located on Market Hill Road, Amherst, as shown on a plan prepared by Harold L. Eaton and Associates, Inc. dated November 29, 2011, which property is to be administered by the Amherst Conservation Commission, pursuant to vote taken under Article 20C of the May 2, 2011 Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Mooring explained that the Hastings parcel being donated is in the watershed for the Town's drinking water supply. Select Board members expressed appreciation for the donation and Mr. Hayden noted the quality of the Town's drinking water and the value of protecting that quality.

VOTED unanimously, as the Water Commissioners, to accept the deed from Ann J. Hastings to eighteen acres of property located in Pelham, Massachusetts for water supply protection purposes under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Sections 39B and 41.

FY13 Budget Preview: Town Manager reviewed key points from recent years' budgets leading to this point including four straight years of unprecedented State Aid cuts; reduction of about ten percent of the Town's workforce, not including Schools and Libraries; addressing two-thirds of the structural budget deficit through spending cuts and one-third through increased revenue in the form of local option meals tax and increase in the local option lodging tax, approved unanimously by Town Meeting, and a 1.68 million dollar override implemented over two years. This year's expectation of a two percent increase in State Aid and the Finance Committee's 2.8 percent preliminary budget guidelines will allow a budget at or near level services for FY13, with some minor adjustments in spending. The budget to be presented January 13, 2012 anticipates no significant new spending, no significant cuts, no use of reserves, and no increase for the second straight year in the amount needed to cover health insurance needs. Funding to operate the War Memorial Pool will be included, and plans to reincorporate a DPW work crew into the Town budget and off of project-based funding are underway. The capital budget is still being worked on and JCPC will consider the requests, but recent progress on large capital needs suggests no critical big-ticket items will be necessary this year, allowing broader investment in smaller capital needs. FY13 budget discussion will be part of each Select Board agenda through Annual Town Meeting.

Town Manager's Report:

Storm Debris Update: The Town has arranged with Wagner Wood to pick up private storm debris at a cost of \$30 per cubic yard plus a \$10 pick up fee to residents. Residents with debris by the road that is deemed private rather than public will be notified of this option by letter. Mr. Mooring explained the clean-up process to date and how the new private option will work. Tree Warden Alan Snow has gone street-by-street to assess all debris as public or private, and the Department of Public Works expects to finish removing all the public debris in the next week or so. A list of streets Department of Public Works has finished will be on the web site; residents who have debris and haven't

received a letter within a couple days of the Department of Public Works finishing their street should call 259-3050, extension 0.

New UMass Vice Chancellor

Town Manager and Chair of the Board met with Jim Sheehan, Interim Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance. Mr. Musante indicated a good discussion regarding various Town-Gown issues took place, including the strategic partnership agreement which is due to expire at the end of June, 2012.

CDBG Application Update: Application is being submitted as per the recommendations the Select Board reviewed several weeks ago, with one change noted: two hundred and twenty-eight thousand dollars of the prepared capital plan that had been designated for possible affordable housing has been re-designated for improvements to Main Street. The affordable housing proposal was not considered to be ready to the degree necessary to meet the strict grant criteria, with further due diligence required. That work will continue and if it does become ready for this funding cycle, all or some of the money could again be designated for that purpose.

New PVTA Buses: New diesel hybrid buses which use fifty percent less fuel have been added to the UMass Transit fleet and incorporate the school's maroon color scheme. A presentation of the new buses was held on campus last week.

UMass Master Plan: A community meeting to present the UMass master plan will be held December 15 at the UMass Police Department Community Room. The office will post as a Select Board meeting, in case a quorum is in attendance.

Member Reports:

Student Committee Assistance: Mr. Hayden talked about a new class at Amherst College intended to teach students about community building and governance. As part of that class, students will work on projects in the community, and Mr. Hayden will offer project opportunities with Town committees as among those for student consideration. He has already reached out to committees he is liaison to and others that address issues expected to be of interest to students for project proposals, and will send his description of the project solicitation to the Select Board so that we might pass it along to our other committees. While there are expected to be more project requests than students available to pursue them, it was agreed that creating a list of such projects could be helpful for seeking or matching up other student volunteers for similar opportunities in the future.

Personnel Board: Ms. Stein reported that Town Counsel is reviewing questions raised in the revised draft Personnel Manual regarding certain responsibilities involving the Library Trustee and Director, as outlined. A small elevation in an employee's position was also addressed.

Human Rights Day: Ms. Stein reported on an educational forum she attended Saturday, which was held in the Town Room regarding the Declaration of Human Rights and issues and experiences in Haiti. She said the event was fascinating and educational, but sparsely attended and would have benefited from more publicity on the Town web site among other places. Mr. Wald reported attending the candlelight vigil for Human Rights Day on Friday evening, and said it was also a good and interesting event with low attendance.

Disability Access Advisory Committee: Ms. Brewer noted DAAC Chair Gerry Weiss summarized their recent meeting and issues in an e-mail to the Select Board last week.

LSSE Commission: Ms. Brewer indicated they are scheduled to meet December 14, 2011.

CDBG Advisory Committee: Ms. Brewer indicated they are scheduled to meet December 20, 2011.

Regional School District Planning Committee: Ms. Brewer indicated they are scheduled to meet December 15, 2011 and that they are planning to meet with like committees in the other towns in the region to discuss grant availability for the process. It was noted the meetings are not intended to be action related to forming a region, but rather for information on grant access for consideration during a study process.

Hampshire County Selectmen's Association: Ms. Brewer reported on the meeting attended last week in Northampton; the group considered ways it might reinvigorate member communities participation and how it might

better serve the needs and interests of the diverse communities of Hampshire County. Another meeting for further discussion is planned for March.

Historical Commission and Design Review Board: Mr. Wald reported both groups had met independently to consider the next steps on the Town flag design proposals and are planning a joint meeting in January.

Local Historic District Study Committee: Mr. Wald said the Committee has formed a subcommittee in hopes to bring a proposal forward to Town Meeting in the spring.

Council on Aging: Ms. O’Keeffe reported that Health Director Julie Federman reviewed and received feedback on the Town’s October storm emergency response. Board of Health member Nancy Gilbert discussed and recorded ideas regarding a class she will teach in the spring at UMass that will have students focusing on improved emergency preparedness plans for special populations including the frail old. The Friends of the Senior Center group is looking into distributing a fundraising letter via the Town’s local census mailing, a suggestion made by Northampton’s COA, for whom it proved successful.

Chair’s Report: Ms. O’Keeffe reviewed some of the successes and challenges of the Select Board’s work in 2011, and congratulated and thanked the group for its productivity, and for how well they work together. She also expressed the Board’s appreciation for all the support provided by Debra Roussel and Debbie Gordon in the Town Manager’s office, who do so much to help us to do our jobs accurately and efficiently. Ms. Stein expressed appreciation to Ms. O’Keeffe for the work she does as Chair. Ms. O’Keeffe expressed appreciation to Dave Ziomek for his work as Acting Town Manager during Mr. Musante’s rehabilitation; and to Mr. Musante for his work for the Town and his strong partnership with the Select Board.

Calendar Preview: Ms. O’Keeffe announced that the Select Board’s next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, January 3, 2012. Happy Holidays and Happy New Year were wished to all.

Executive Session

Move that the Select Board go into Executive Session for two purposes, both under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, section 21, part a, subset 3: To conduct strategy with respect to collective bargaining, regarding the Police Union, AFSCME and SEIU, because an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of this public body; and to discuss strategy with respect to litigation regarding the Landfill Solar Project lawsuit, because 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; Brewer, Aye; Hayden, Aye; Stein, Aye; and Wald, Aye.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra A. Roussel, Assistant to the Town Manager

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting – Also Available in the Online Packet for the Meeting Date

2011-12-12 Agenda - final 2
2011-12-12 Draft Motions
Stosz Deed
Stosz Acquisition Map-234 Market Hill Road
Stosz Market Hill Rd plan
Pelham Watershed land acceptance
Hastings Draft Deed Pelham Watershed
Hastings Drinking Water Supply Areas
Hastings Parcel on Topo Map
Hastings Pelham Watershed Map
Land Donation- Hastings Parcel, Pelham
DPW Memo on tree debris removal
Ideal Movers Meter Bag request
Ideal Movers Parking Request Map
DOT Request for Sign Placement

Taxi Business and Driver Renewals 2012

Taxi Driver Applications: James, Kevin; Johnson, Jim; Lapienski, Jasper; Reeves, Damon; Vlasenko, Irina.

Liquor License Change of Manager - Sodexo Management on behalf of Hampshire College

Special Wine and Malt One Day License – UMass Amherst