

## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Weiss at 6:30 p.m.

### ATTENDANCE

Weiss, Brewer, Greeney, Awad, Kusner  
Shaffer (Recorder), Rosenblatt, Carlozzi, Simula, Zoll, Nelms, Marin, O'Connor, BenEzra, Noonan

### OPENING REMARKS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Kusner suggested an amendment to the town manager's budget to include Human Services funding and explored having an Executive Session for litigation.

Greeney declared a conflict of interest and left the Town Room before the vote.

**VOTED:** Awad, Kusner voted "Aye", Brewer voted "No", Weiss abstained to direct the town manager to insert the Human Service funding back in the budget.

Mr. Weiss explained his abstention as being out of respect for the process to discuss the budget agreed upon at their February 4, 2008 Select Board Meeting.

Vince O'Connor discussed mailboxes in the public way and suggested that the Select Board should relocate mailboxes on Pelham Road and Belchertown Road. Mailboxes should be set back from the sidewalk to the same side of the houses they serve; they are a public safety hazard and block access to the public way.

### SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

#### **Public Hearing – Community Development Block Grant**

- Public hearing called to order at 6:55 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 7:30 p.m.

Roy Rosenblatt discussed the renovation of the North Amherst School and gave an explanation of the project at a cost of \$480,000. Mr. Kusner and Mr. Weiss suggested funding part of the North Amherst School through Community Preservation Funds. Ms. Brewer clarified the following: The North Amherst School cost is \$480,000, Social Services \$160,000 (\$85,000 for the Center for Human Development and \$75,000 for Tuition Assistance) and \$160,000 for administrative expenses. Ms. Greeney expressed her disappointment over the the lack of money for a feasibility study for single room occupancy (SRO) housing.

Reikka Simula, Chair of the Homelessness Committee, supports a feasibility study.

John Nelms discussed social justice. Vince O'Connor discussed the need to demonstrate legitimate block grant needs. Stanley Maron, member of the Homelessness Committee, stated that the Town has a problem with homelessness and the Select Board should work hand in hand with the Homelessness Committee to find solutions. Kevin Noonan, a homeless advocate, supported a feasibility study with regard to building permanent affordable housing. Isaac BenEzra said that while everyone appreciates our financial services, we do need to change the culture of the community. Ms. Greeney continued to advocate for money for a feasibility study.

#### **Climate Change Event – Update**

No action taken.

**Joint Meeting – Finance Committee**

Minutes were recorded by Douglas Slaughter, Acting Clerk for the Finance Committee, and filed in the Finance Committee file.

**Special Town Meeting Discussion/Budget Coordinating Group Report**

Mr. Weiss believes that a Town forum is needed given that a Special Town Meeting is not supported by the Select Board. Mr. Kusner said the matching funds from the State allows for greater State funding to the Town if the Community Preservation Act percentage is increased by the Town. Ms. Awad said that she would help organize a public forum.

**VOTED** unanimously to support the Budget Coordinating Committee’s recommendation of holding a public forum on February 11, 2008.

**Establish Citizen Petition Deadline for Zoning Articles - 2008 Annual Town Meeting**

**VOTED:** Weiss, Brewer, Greeney, Awad, “Aye”, Kusner abstained, to establish the following deadlines: February 4, 2008 at 12:00 noon for receipt of zoning petitions and March 3, 2008 for miscellaneous citizen petitions for inclusion on the 2008 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

**Approve Minutes**

No action taken.

**Committee Appointments –Select Board**

**VOTED:** unanimously to appoint Eric Beal, Associate Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals, for a term to expire June 30, 2009.

*The Board revoted as follows:*

**VOTED:** Weiss, Awad, Kusner; Greeney voted “Aye”, Brewer voted “No”, to recind their previous vote to appoint Eric Beal as an Associate Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals, for a term to expire June 30, 2009.

**Jane Ashby, Full Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals**

No action taken

**VOTED:** Weiss, Brewer, Awad, Kusner, “Aye”, Kusner abstained, to appoint Nina Wishengrad to the Town/Commercial Relations Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2008.

**Committee Reappointments – Select Board**

**VOTED:** Weiss, Brewer, Awad, Kusner, “Aye”, Greeney abstained, to reappoint Thomas Simpson, Full Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals, for a term to expire June 30, 2008.

**LICENSES AND PERMITS**

**Special Wine and Malt Liquor License – Cherry Hill Golf Course**

**VOTED** unanimously, to approve the Special Wine and Malt Liquor License for Cherry Hill Golf Course on February 9, 2008 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. for Winterfest.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTED** unanimously, to adjourn the open meeting at 11:09 p.m.