

## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### ATTENDANCE

Weiss, Greeney, Awad, Kusner (6:40 p.m.), Brewer  
Shaffer, Gawle, Scherpa, Hoyle, Linowski  
Recorder: Seaman

### OPENING REMARKS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Nancy Gordon spoke to the Board about a survey she had conducted last year regarding the Budget. Ms. Gordon distributed information to the Board and indicated that there were written comments available if they were interested.

Mr. Kusner announced that bids for the design for reconstruction of the Norwottuck Rail Trail were due February 27, 2008.

Ms. Greeney requested that the results of the 2009 Budget Priorities Survey be posted on the website and requested that the Board take a vote to that effect.

**VOTED** unanimously, to make the survey results available on the Town website and additionally distribute to the Department Heads, Finance Committee, Budget Coordinating Group, Library Trustees, Amherst School Committee and the Regional School Committee.

### SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

#### **Public Hearing – WMECO**

- Public hearing opened at 6:46 p.m.
- Closed the public hearing at 6:52 p.m.

Discussion was held relative to the placement of a utility pole. The representative from WMECO was not present at the meeting; the Board decided it would be best to wait to vote until the representative could attend the meeting to provide further information.

#### **Campus Community Coalition Update**

Ms. Linowski spoke to the Board about the Campus Community Coalition; primarily its purpose and the progress the Coalition has made with helping the problems associated with student drinking. Ms. Linowski outlined the programs that are available through the Coalition to help students make smarter choices about drinking.

#### **Global Climate Change**

No action taken.

#### **Ambulance Fee Negotiation Update**

Ms. Greeney asked for an update on the negotiation between Shutesbury, Leverett, Pelham and Hadley and the Town relative to ambulance fees. Mr. Shaffer indicated that discussions were taking place, but that no written agreements were currently in place.

**Bylaw Changes – False Alarms & Retaining Funds Locally**

Stan Gawle spoke to the Board about the number of false alarm calls public safety responds to annually and the potential to gain revenue from homes and businesses that have multiple false alarms. Charles Scherpa, Chief of Police and Keith Hoyle, Fire Chief explained how false alarms impact their respective departments, and the potential costs that are associated with each call. Chief Hoyle explained that fees for false fire calls are regulated by the State. Mr. Gawle also voiced concern about speeding and would like to implement a system comparable to the city of Northampton. Chief Scherpa and the Board discussed the fines that are currently in place for speeding.

**Political Signs**

The Board held a brief discussion about the need for a permit to erect a political sign on Town property. It was decided to send the current form to Town Counsel for review.

**Select Board Meeting Rules**

No action taken.

**Public Comment - Community Development Block Grant Discussion (CDBG)**

The Board heard from several members of the community in regard to the potential use of CDBG funds. Discussion took place about how to better serve the homeless community. The possible creation of Single Room Occupancy housing was discussed at length.

**Approve Minutes**

No action taken.

**Committee Appointments – Select Board**

**VOTED** unanimously, to appoint the following:

- Jane Ashby, Full Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals, for a term to expire June 30, 2010.
- Eric Beal, Associate Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals, for a term to expire June 30, 2009.
- Walter Wolnik, to the Housing Partnership/Fair Housing Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2011.
- Craig Holmes, to the Committee on Homelessness, for a term to expire June 30, 2011.
- Paul Baker, to the La Paz Centro, Nicaragua Sister City Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2011.
- Carol Baker, to the La Paz Centro, Nicaragua Sister City Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2011.

**LICENSES AND PERMITS**

**Taxi Business License**

**VOTED** unanimously, to approve the Taxi Business License for Chip’s Whip LLC, 1040 North Pleasant Street, Apartment #258, Amherst, MA (Manager Matthew DeFinis).

**Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License**

**VOTED** unanimously, to approve the Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Matthew DeFinis, 1040 North Pleasant Street, Apartment #258, Amherst, MA.

**Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License**

**VOTED** unanimously, to approve the Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for William James Mines III, 25530 Heyer Square, South Riding, VA.

**Change of Corporate Name – Amherst Coffee**

**VOTED** unanimously, to approve the Change of Corporate Name for Amherst Coffee from Northampton Coffee LLC, to A Fine Café Company, Inc. (Owners: David Clark and Mukunda Feldman).

**Special Wine and Malt Liquor License – University of Massachusetts**

**VOTED** unanimously, to approve the Special Wine and Malt Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts on March 1, 2008 from 4:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall for a reception.

**Special Wine and Malt Liquor License – University of Massachusetts**

**VOTED** unanimously, to approve the Special Wine and Malt Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts on February 6, 2008 from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Fine Arts Center for a reception.

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

**VOTED** unanimously, to *change the hours approved and voted* (6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.) at the January 28, 2008 Select Board meeting for the Special Wine and Malt Liquor License for the Cherry Hill Golf Course Winter Fest, February 9, 2008 to 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTED** unanimously, to adjourn the open meeting at 10:00 p.m.