

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Weiss, Greeney, Awad, Kusner, Brewer
Shaffer
Arcamo, Recorder

OPENING REMARKS/PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Weiss announced that today would be Mr. Kusner's last meeting and thanked him for his service and hard work. He said that Mr. Kusner will be missed. Mr. Kusner thanked the Select Board and Town of Amherst citizens and employees, and former Select Board member Robie Hubley. He stated that he learned a lot from Mr. Hubley.

Nancy Gordon discussed the poll for which she sent out 330 surveys to citizens of the Town, and has received 55 responses so far. She stated that the mailing cost her \$300. She handed out the survey questions to the Select Board.

Rob Crowner stated that the Public Works Committee has received many complaints about the condition of Pelham Road and asked that the Select Board consider the recommendations the committee had made a year ago. Mr. Weiss requested that the recommendations be sent to the Select Board office again and stated that the topic would be discussed in a couple of weeks.

Vince O'Connor stated that the Department of Public Works Superintendent has not responded to his request for information regarding surveying and paving plans. Mr. O'Connor suggested that a Board of Public Works be created.

SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

Police Captain Promotion-Lieutenant Scott Livingstone

Police Chief Scherpa spoke about Lieutenant Scott Livingstone's twenty five years on the force and recommended that Lieutenant Livingstone be promoted to Captain. Mr. Shaffer praised Lieutenant Livingstone and agreed on the promotion. The Town Clerk was not available to swear-in Lieutenant Livingstone, therefore it was to take place the following morning. Ms. Awad announced that in the past the protocol for such event was for the Select Board congratulate and shake hands with the promoted. Lieutenant Livingstone stepped up to the panel and was congratulated in the formal manner.

Global Climate Change

Ms. Greeney spoke about the high attendance at the January 30th forum. Ms. Greeney offered to assist with the event. Select Board members proposed that Forum II be held in April, 2008 and Forum III be held in the Fall of 2008.

VOTED unanimously, to support: a.) Forum II (April 16, 2008): efforts of Amherst and Regional Public Schools, Amherst College and Hampshire College on meeting the CO2 reduction goal by 2009, and to support b.) Forum III (Fall 2008): efforts of Amherst residents and businesses on meeting the CO2 reduction goal by 2009.

Special Municipal Employee Status – Water Supply Protection Committee

Mr. Lyons Witten, Chair of the Water Supply Protection Committee, spoke about the letter he submitted to the Select Board seeking Special Municipal Employee Status.

VOTED unanimously, to grant Special Municipal Employee Status to the Water Supply Protection Committee.

Chapter 61A Release – Bay Road – David and Phyllis Smith

Attorney John Edwards spoke about the property at 1011 Bay Road.

VOTED Weiss, Greeney, Brewer voted “Aye”, Awad, Kusner, abstained, that the Town not exercise its option under M.G.L. Chapter 61, Section 8 to purchase property on Bay Road, owned by David N. and Phyllis H. Smith and more specifically described as Lot 1011 in the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds, Plan Book 214, page 64, consisting of 2.04 acres, more or less, and listed on the Town Cadastre as Map 30A – Parcel 21.

Town Manager’s Report

Towns’ Ambulance Service

Mr. Shaffer made a presentation of the Town of Amherst ambulance services five-year contracts (FY08-FY13) for UMass, Amherst College, Hampshire College, the Town of Hadley, the Town of Leverett, the Town of Pelham, the Town of Shutesbury and the Town of Sunderland. Mr. Shaffer gave statistics of fees per calls from FY04 to present. Ms. Greeney presented a four page memo with conclusion that subsidies to other towns, university and colleges be phased out by FY 13.

Recent Budget Developments

Mr. Shaffer reported that he is still in negotiations with the collective bargaining units and that the Health Insurance Trust Fund is doing well.

VOTED Weiss, Awad, Kusner, Brewer voted “Aye”, Greeney abstained for the Select Board to direct the Town Manager to move Human Services Funding Agency and the War Memorial Pool to the top of the restoration list in FY09 Town Budget, as more funds become available.

Town Counsel Opinion – Police Fees for Common

No action taken.

Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Report

Mr. Shaffer announced that the Community Development Block Grant application had been submitted on February 15, 2008, requesting funds to repair the North Amherst School, to hire an outreach worker, childcare tuition, and for administration. Mr. Shaffer stated funds for feasibility study for homeless housing and social services is available for use for the current Community Development Block Grant and that the Committee on Homelessness could begin feasibility study now.

CPA Surcharge Warrant Article

VOTED Weiss, Awad, Kusner voted “Aye”, Greeney, Brewer “No”, to approve placing an article for Annual or Special Town Meeting this spring, which if approved, would place on the November 4, 2008 ballot a question raising the Community Preservation Act surcharge by up to 1½%.

Complaint Management System

No action taken.

Middle Street Stop Signs

No action taken.

Town Meeting Child Care Funding

Mr. Frank Gatti spoke about a Town Meeting resolution to fund childcare for Town Meeting members stating that elder care and care for a sick relative should be included as well. Mr. Shaffer stated that he would be happy to accommodate/reimburse for child/elder care expenses. A press release will be generated to inform Town Meeting members.

Select Board Committee Liaison Assignments

No action taken.

Transportation Enterprise Fund Budget

VOTED Weiss, Awad, Kusner, Brewer voted “Aye”, Greeney abstained, to approve a parking fee policy, adjusting rates and intervals of enforcement to ensure additional revenues to provide an equitable, effective and environmentally responsible public transportation system for Amherst.

Sign Annual Town Election Warrant

No discussion.

VOTED unanimously to sign the April 1, 2008 Annual Town Election Warrant.

Approve Minutes

No action taken.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License

VOTED unanimously, to approve the Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Sana NDiaye, Southpoint Drive Apartment 105D, Amherst, MA.

Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License

VOTED unanimously, to approve the Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Devon Fitzgerald, 58 Clark Mountain Road, Sunderland, MA.

Special All Alcoholic Liquor License – University of Massachusetts

VOTED unanimously to approve the Special All Alcoholic Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts on March 3, 2008 from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall for a dinner.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously to adjourn to executive session at 9:55 p.m. for the purpose of discussing land acquisition and pending litigation. The open meeting will not reconvene following the Executive Session.

SELECT BOARD EXECUTIVE SESSION MINUTES
February 25, 2008
Town Room, Amherst Town Hall

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 10:00 p.m.

**Not a Public Document
Under Exemption**

ATTENDANCE

Weiss, Greeney, Awad, Kusner, Brewer
Shaffer

SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

Discussed North Amherst and the acquisition of the Patterson site.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED: unanimously to adjourn the Executive Session at 10:45 p.m. and not to reconvene the open session.