

## MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

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

### ATTENDANCE

Weiss, Awad, Brewer, Greeney  
Kusner absent  
Musante,  
Weston, Recorder

### QUESTION PERIOD/PUBLIC COMMENT

The State will begin construction on East Leverett Road and the bridge will remain closed to traffic for fifteen to twenty-one months.

David Clooney, President of the Amherst Firefighters Local 1764, attended the meeting to express the Union's feelings about the discussion at the previous week's Select Board meeting about providing service to other towns and maintaining firefighting services to Amherst. He requested a place on a future agenda along with Fire Chief Keith Hoyle to discuss the cost of ambulance calls. Mr. Weiss agreed that Mr. Clooney would be placed on a future agenda.

John Root discussed the upcoming event "Earth Hour" on Saturday, March 29, 2008 at 8:00 p.m. and asked the Board to support turning off power for an hour as a symbolic gesture of the grave challenge we face in meeting our energy needs. Ms. Awad and Ms. Greeney agreed to issue a press release.

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to support Earth Hour and urge residents and businesses to voluntarily turn off their lights for one hour on March 29, 2008 beginning at 8:00 p.m.

### SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

#### **Zoning Subcommittee Meetings**

The Select Board discussed attendance at Zoning Subcommittee meetings in place of Mr. Kusner who is out of town. Since no one volunteered to cover the meetings, Ms. Awad requested a Zoning Subcommittee agenda packet. Mr. Musante will follow up on her request.

#### **Police Fees For Use of the Common**

There was discussion concerning the police coverage that is occasionally required for certain events on the Common. Town Counsel rendered an opinion that the fees for police may be deemed to be unconstitutional and could be challenged. It was reported that the town manager decided not to exercise the policy, although it will not be officially removed at this time.

#### **Town Manager's Report**

##### **Pelham Road Mailboxes**

Mr. Musante reported that Mr. Shaffer has been in touch with the Postmaster regarding placement of mailboxes and was told that a petition is necessary to change the position of the mailboxes. He reported that a survey was to be sent to the residents of Pelham Road to determine if they wish to have their mailboxes moved.

### **Budget Update**

Mr. Musante gave a PowerPoint presentation “A Possible Way Forward, FY 09 Gap Closing and Elements of a Multi-Year Financial Plan”. He said that the Budget Coordinating Group agreed to identify community service level preferences by soliciting citizen input and developing a financial strategy to pay for it. He discussed ways to fund the FY 09 gap through budget reductions, revised projections and capital plan investment. Mr. Musante explained that a long term plan should have financial policies for guidance on ways to stretch dollars, prudent use of reserves and aggressive legislative strategies to increase revenues. He talked about ways to maximize efficiencies, suggested exploration for improvement and regionalization of services, and the need to establish specific goals to increase the tax base. Partnering with the Colleges and the University through economic development will produce additional revenue and provide property tax relief. There was further lengthy budget discussion among the Board and Mr. Musante.

### **Bylaw Creation – Rights of Non United States Citizens**

Mr. Weiss talked about a draft article he created regarding non United States citizens proposing that the Amherst Police Department not be involved in the enforcement of the Federal Immigration Law. There was brief discussion about the plight of non U.S. citizens working in this country who are placed in peril when they are afraid to follow immigration laws. Mr. Weiss would like to continue the discussion and have the Board decide whether they would support the article for Annual Town Meeting.

### **Select Board Committee Liaison Assignments**

The Board reviewed and discussed the list of dormant and expired committees. The Board voted as follows:

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to delete the Campus Community Coalition.

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to delete the Community Dialogue Task Force.

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to delete the Community Problem Solving Partnership

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to delete the Emergency Homelessness Task Force.

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to delete the Town Committees Evaluation Task Force.

The Board also wants the votes recorded on the charges.

There was discussion about the inactive committees like Economic Development & Industrial Corp that were created by special legislation and can't be eliminated, and others that may have been created by Town Meeting and would need to be deleted through the same process.

Ms. Awad agreed to cover Mr. Kusner's liaison positions such as Community Preservation Act Committee, Public Transportation Committee, and Conservation Committee until the election.

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

The Select Board clarified their previous approval of the Election Calendar at their December 17, 2007 meeting and affirmed that they had voted the entire calendar including the deadline dates for the citizen zoning and miscellaneous petitions.

### **Town Meeting Family Care Stipend**

A press release was read by Mr. Weiss notifying Town Meeting members of the family care stipend available to those for whom Town Meeting attendance might otherwise be a hardship.

### **Approve Minutes**

**VOTED:** Weiss, Awad, Greeney voted “Aye”, Brewer abstained, to approve the minutes, as amended, of the *December 10, 2007*, Select Board meeting.

**VOTED:** Weiss, Awad, Greeney voted “Aye”, Brewer abstained to approve the minutes, as amended, of the *December 17, 2007* Select Board meeting.

**VOTED:** Weiss, Awad, Greeney voted “Aye”, Brewer abstained to approve the minutes, as amended, of the *January 7, 2008* Select Board meeting.

**VOTED:** Weiss, Awad, Greeney voted “Aye”, Brewer abstained to approve the minutes, as amended, the minutes of the *January 14, 2008* Select Board meeting.

**VOTED:** Weiss, Awad, Greeney voted “Aye”, Brewer abstained to approve the minutes, as amended, of the *February 4, 2008* Select Board meeting.

**VOTED:** Weiss, Awad, Greeney voted “Aye”, Brewer abstained to approve the minutes, as amended, of the *February 11, 2008* Select Board meeting.

**Committee Appointments-Select Board**

**VOTED:** unanimously (4-0) to appoint Michaela DeAngelis, Committee on Homelessness, for a term to expire June 30, 2011.

**LICENSES AND PERMITS**

**Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License**

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to approve the Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for John Howard Rae, 269 Stony Hill Road, Apartment T-24, Amherst, MA.

**Special All Alcoholic Liquor License – University of Massachusetts**

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to approve the Special All Alcoholic Liquor License for the University of Massachusetts for April 28, 2008 from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. at Memorial Hall for a dinner.

**Special Wine and Malt Liquor License – Hitchcock Center for the Environment**

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0) to approve the Special Wine and Malt Liquor License for the Hitchcock Center for the Environment for March 28, 2008 from 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Amherst College Alumni House for a fundraiser.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**VOTED** unanimously (4-0), to adjourn the open meeting at 8:37 p.m.