

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Select Board members Gerald Weiss, Anne Awad, Alisa Brewer, Stephanie O’Keeffe and Diana Stein, Town Manager Laurence Shaffer, and Kate Seaman.

SELECT BOARD’S ACTION

Town Manager Report – Fourth of July Committee/Town of Hadley Ambulance Service

Mr. Shaffer read from a press release that stated that in 2009 the Town of Amherst would be putting on the Fourth of July Parade, not the July Fourth Parade Committee. There was discussion from the Board and the public relative to the Town Manager’s decision.

Mr. Shaffer spoke to the Board regarding the status of the potential agreement between the Town and the Town of Hadley relative to Ambulance service.

Street Acceptance Site Visits Report

Mr. Weiss gave a brief update on the site visits being conducted relative to various warrant articles for the April 28, 2008 Annual Town Meeting.

Approve Minutes

No action taken.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License

VOTED unanimously, to approve the Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Brian Kopinto, 33 Captain Lathrop Drive, South Deerfield, MA.

WARRANT ARTICLES

Annual Town Meeting, April 28, 2008 Warrant Articles:

Article 8 – FY 08 Budget Amendments

Deferred until the May 19, 2008 Select Board Meeting.

Article 18 – Community Preservation Act – Affordable Housing (Art 24, ATM 5/7/07)

The Board heard from Roy Rosenblatt, Director of Community Services, regarding the specifics of the provisions of affordable housing.

VOTED unanimously, to recommend Article 18 – Community Preservation Act – Affordable Housing (Art 24, ATM 5/7/07).

Article 19 – Community Preservation Act – Affordable Housing

The Board discussed the status of the affordable housing project on Olympia Drive with Mr. Rosenblatt, including the number of units, and who was going to fund the project, and who would be able to live in the units when they were complete.

VOTED unanimously, to recommend Article 19 – Community Preservation Act – Affordable Housing - Part A.

VOTED unanimously, to recommend Article 19 – Community Preservation Act – Affordable Housing - **Part B**.

Article 20 – Community Preservation Act – Historical Preservation

James Wald, Chair of the Historical Commission, gave the Board a brief presentation on the article, and how it was divided. Mr. Wald and Jonathan Tucker, Planning Director, spoke about potential grant funds that may become available for the purchase of land, and indicated that the Town would know the results of the Grant funds by mid October.

VOTED unanimously, to recommend Article 20 – Community Preservation Act – Historical Preservation, **Part A**.

VOTED unanimously, to recommend Article 20 – Community Preservation Act – Historical Preservation, **Part B**.

Article 22 – Community Preservation Act – Kimball House

Sonia Aldrich, Comptroller, spoke to the Board about Article 22, stating that it was more of a house keeping article that involved taking \$50,000 from the reserve fund to keep with the compensation agreement with the State per the compensation agreement that was voted at the 2006 Annual Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously, to recommend Article 22 – Community Preservation Act – Kimball House.

Article 23 – Community Preservation Act – Administrative

Ms. Aldrich indicated that this article was also standard, and allowed the Community Preservation Act Committee a small pot of money to cover their administrative expenses.

VOTED Weiss, Brewer, O’Keeffe, Stein “Aye”, Awad, “No”, to recommend Article 23 – Community Preservation Act – Administrative **Part A**.

VOTED unanimously, to recommend dismissal of Article 23 – Community Preservation Act – Administrative **Part B**.

Article 24 – Community Preservation Act Ballot Question (November 8, 2008 State Election)

The Board discussed increasing the surcharge for the Community Preservation Act fund, and the implications it would have on taxpayers and the community.

VOTED Weiss, Awad, Stein “Aye”, Brewer, O’Keeffe “No” to recommend Article 24 – Community Preservation Act Ballot Question (November 8, 2008 State Election), amending the actions taken under Article 2 of the Special Town Meeting held on February 12, 2001, and under Article 38 of the Annual Town Meeting held on May 1, 2006, to increase from one and a half percent to three percent, the surcharge authorized thereunder, and to place on the ballot for the November 4, 2008 State Election a question regarding acceptance of such amended surcharge, all as provided in M.G.L. c.44B, §§ 3 and 16(a).

Article 14 – Capital Program – Chapter 90

John Musante, Assistant Town Manager/Finance Director outlined the building projects that fell under this article.

VOTED unanimously, to recommend Article 14 – Capital Program – Chapter 90 in the amount of \$610,000.

Article 15 – Capital Program – Equipment

Mr. Musante spoke to the Board about the equipments needs for specific departments that would be met under this article.

VOTED unanimously, to recommend Article 15 – Capital Program – Equipment in the amount of \$1,226,400.

Article 16 – Capital Program – Buildings and Facilities

Mr. Musante gave a detailed report about the projects encompassed under this article and their sources of funding.

VOTED unanimously, to recommend Article 16 – Capital Program – Buildings and Facilities in the amount of \$143,000.

Article 17 – Capital Program – Bond Authorization

Mr. Musante outlined the three portions of the article, stating that the money included would allow for new equipment for several Town departments.

VOTED unanimously, to recommend Article 17 – Capital Program – Bond Authorization *Part A* in the amount of \$420,000.

VOTED unanimously, to recommend Article 17 – Capital Program – Bond Authorization *Part B* in the amount of \$635,000.

VOTED unanimously, to recommend Article 17 – Capital Program – Bond Authorization *Part C* in the amount of \$205,000.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously, to adjourn the open meeting at 9:55 p.m.