

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Weiss at 6:31 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Weiss, Kusner, Brewer (6:40 p.m.), Greeney, Awad,
Shaffer
Weston, Recorder

SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

Automated Systems Designed to Track Complaints

Kris Pacunas, Information Technology Director, discussed the features of the automated system for tracking complaints. It will be an open form where information can be easily entered, assigned a number and be directed to the relevant people for action. There will be printing capabilities for reports and the form can be further customized meet the requirements as they were described to Kris. He believes it will be a perfect match for efficiently tracking complaints. In terms of a timeline, Kris could offer a system now but it would not have the functionality that could be offered at a later date. Ms. Greeney suggested that Kris review the last six months of complaints and suggestions to get a sense of the issues for customizing the form. Kris estimates that the system will it will be late winter or early spring for the system to be in place. Ms. Greeney would like Kris to return at the end of February to update the Board on his progress.

Subprecincts

Aaron Buford, president of the UMASS Student Government Association, and Sara Littlecrow-Russell, Director of the Center for Educational Policy Advocacy, came to speak to the dissolution of the subprecincts voted at the December 19, 2005 Select Board Meeting.. The subprecincts have not proven to be cost effective (16,000/year), voter turnout has been low and the trend is towards absentee ballots. SGA will continue to find ways to encourage students to continue to vote, but they need more time to find a cost effective way to address the issue and find the root causes of low voter turnout. The SGA and UMass thanked Sandra Burgess for all her help.

Mr. Kusner remembers that \$56,000 was paid for the voting equipment and there was a stipulation that equipment be used only for the subprecincts. Sandra Burgess feels that Town Counsel should address the matter. Mr. Weiss directed the Town Manager to seek Town Counsel's advice. Mr. Shaffer stated that the University should not expect that any money will be returned to the SGA. Ms. Littlecrow-Russell said it was clearly understood and the voting equipment will be returned to the Town.

VOTED unanimously to reverse the vote taken at the December 19, 2005 Select Board meeting to divide Precinct 3, designating as 3A, located in the Student Union Building, 41 Campus Center Way, the dormitories located at the University of Massachusetts known as:

UM Brown, 92 Eastman Lane
UM Cashin, 112 Eastman Lane
UM Crabtree, 17 Eastman Lane

UM Delta Upsilon, 778 N. Pleasant Street

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UM Dwight, 41 Eastman Lane
UM Hamlin, 739 N. Pleasant Street
UM Johnson, 181 Thatcher Way
UM Knowlton, 691 N Pleasant Street
UM Leach, 21 Eastman Lane
UM Lewis, 161 Thatcher Way
UM Mary Lyon, 43 Eastman Lane
UM McNamara, 102 Eastman Lane
UM Thatcher, 151 Thatcher Way
UM Building 670 (New Residence Hall – To Be Named at a Future Date), 56 Eastman Lane
UM Building 671 (New Residence Hall – To Be Named at a Future Date), 58 Eastman Lane
UM Building 672 (New Residence Hall – To Be Named at a Future Date), 54 Eastman Lane
UM Building 673 (New Residence Hall – To Be Named at a Future Date), 52 Eastman

VOTED unanimously to reverse the vote taken at the December 19, 2005 Select Board meeting to divide Precinct 4, designating as 4A, located in the Student Union Building, 41 Campus Center Way, the dormitories located at the University of Massachusetts known as:

UM Cance, 191 Fearing Street	UM Washington, 181 Fearing Street
UM Melville, 650 Massachusetts Avenue	UM Coolidge, 630 Massachusetts Avenue
UM Moore, 111 Southwest Circle	UM Emerson, 151 Southwest Circle
UM Pierpont, 201 Fearing Street	UM James, 660 Massachusetts Avenue
UM Thoreau, 640 Massachusetts Avenue	UM Kennedy, 620 Massachusetts Avenue

VOTED unanimously to reverse the vote taken at the December 19, 2005 Select Board meeting to divide Precinct 9, designating as 9A, located in the Student Union Building, 41 Campus Center Way, the dormitories located at the University of Massachusetts known as:

UM Alpha Epsilon Pi, 382 N. Pleasant St.	M Grayson, 161 Orchard Hill Drive
UM Baker, 160 Clark Hill Road	UM Greenough, 120 Orchard Hill Drive
UM Brett, 151 Infirmary Way	UM Pi Delta Psi, 389 North Pleasant Street
UM Brooks, 160 Infirmary Way	UM Sigma Delta Tau, 409 N. Pleasant St.
UM Butterfield, 171 Clark Hill Road	UM Sigma Psi Zeta, 387 N. Pleasant Street
UM Chadbourne, 110 Orchard Hill Road	UM Van Meter, 180 Clark Hill Road
UM Dickinson, 151 Orchard Hill Drive	UM Webster, 141 Orchard Hill Road
UM Field, 171 Orchard Hill Drive	UM Wheeler, 171 Infirmary Way
UM Gorman, 90 Butterfield Terrace	

VOTED unanimously to reverse the vote taken at the December 19, 2005 Select Board meeting to divide Precinct 10, designating as 10A, located in the Student Union Building, 41 Campus Center Way, the dormitories located at the University of Massachusetts known as:

UM Alpha Chi Omega, 38 Nutting Avenue	UM Iota Gamma Upsilon, 406 N. Pleasant Street
UM Alpha Delta Phi, 382 N. Pleasant Street	UM John Adams, 161 Fearing Street
UM Crampton, 256 Sunset Avenue	UM John Q Adams, 171 Fearing Street
UM Delta Sigma Phi, 496 N. Pleasant Street	UM Kappa Kappa Gamma, 32 Nutting Avenue
UM Hillel, 388 N. Pleasant Street	

UM Lincoln Apartments, 345 Lincoln Avenue
UM Mackimmie, 230 Sunset Avenue
UM Patterson, 204 Sunset Avenue

UM Sigma Kappa, 19 Allen Street

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UM Phi Sigma Kappa, 510 N. Pleasant Street

UM Theta Chi, 496 N. Pleasant Street
UM Zeta Beta Tau, 374 N. Pleasant Street

UM Prince, 286 Sunset Avenue

Select Board Priorities – FY 09 Budget

Mr. Weiss stated that the FY 2009 budget should be prepared without reserves and without an override. He would like to keep COLAS below 3%, and advocates comprehensive reviews of departments by the Town Manager to determine how to best reorganize and reduce staffing levels while continuing to efficiently provide services. Human Services will be scrutinized and he sees a lot of changes that can be made. Social service subsidies should be kept in place as private fundraising is not sufficient to provide the services needed. However, we need to require that agencies be specific what services will be provided and what will not be provided without funding.

Mr. Kusner stated that in a Massachusetts Teacher Association document two trends pointed out that a fraction of the overall income that is generated paid to the State and goes back to cities and towns has declined. Public transportation is running on fumes, and there is the nationwide problem of not raising enough taxes to take care of our roads. The 2 1/2 % increase in taxes is not sufficient to cover the expenditures that have grown over the years. Mr. Kusner said he would not speak against an override. He envisions Amherst won't be able to provide the services that it has come to expect.

Ms. Greeney discussed her report. Her goal is to provide excellent education and for the Town to provide adequate services despite decreased funding.. There is a need to have creative thinking; to think of regionalization of services, and merging departments in Town and the schools. Ms. Greeney does not want a budget that depends on an override or reserve funds. The COLAS and step increases combined should be reduced from an average 6% to 3%. Ms. Greeney was pleased with and supported the work by the Town Manager to negotiate with surrounding towns to bring the cost of mutual aid support more in line.

Ms. Awad was impressed with the Town Manager's budget for FY 08 and was pleased with what Larry accomplished in his first 7 1/2 months. She asked that he do it again. The Select Board resisted putting an override on the ballot early, a tough and divisive issue for the Town. She hopes that people will work together to avoid that. Ms. Awad supports regionalization and merging with the county for Inspection Services; suggested working with Hadley as a pilot program to combine services, and looking at ways we can be neighbors and share equipment and rarely used items. Mr. Shaffer has begun an assessment of Bangs Community Center and other departments on ways to combine resources and increase efficiency.

Ms. Brewer discussed some of her priorities that she had proposed at a fall budget meeting such as a Revenue Development Coordinator with economic development experience that would report to the Town Manager. She would like to see improvement in tax collections, combining of services offered by the Town and Schools, changes in contract negotiations, preservation of the Animal Welfare position, and regionalization. We should not build into our projections money that we have not realized.

Mr. Shaffer stated that the Select Board was very clear about their expectations and the direction they want him to take, he will do his best not to disappoint the them and the community. He will not draw

from reserves or plan an override. There are some challenges facing us and he looks forward to working with the Finance Committee and the Select Board on presenting a budget. The budget will be for one

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year, but he does not plan to present a budget that does not address concepts for dealing with the subsequent years. But the budget is for one year.

Hwei-Ling stated that she would like Mr. Shaffer to strive for predictability and stability in the budget and to look at multi-year projections. She emphasized the importance of controlling the cost of wages.

Select Board Liaison Assignments

No action taken.

Select Board Meeting Structure

No action taken.

Select Board Meeting Schedule

VOTED unanimously to set Select Board meetings for January and February, 2008 as follows: January 7, 14, 28, February 2, 2:00 p.m., February 4, 11, 25, 2008. (6:30 for all meetings except 2/2/08)

Scheduling Town Meeting Dates

The Select Board want to know the availability of April 14 and 16 for consideration of an earlier start to Annual Town Meeting.

Environmental Bond Bill

VOTED unanimously to support and sign the endorsement under the auspices of the Massachusetts Audubon Society.

Consent Calendar

Approve Minutes

No action taken

Committee Appointments-Town Manager

VOTED unanimously to appoint John Tobiason, Water Supply Protection Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2010.

VOTED unanimously to appoint W. Jesse Schwalbaum, Water Supply Protection Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2009.

VOTED unanimously to appoint Lyons Whitten, Water Supply Protection Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2009

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Special All Alcoholic License – University of Massachusetts

VOTED unanimously to approve the Special All Alcoholic License for the University of Massachusetts for December 11, 2007 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. for a dinner at the Goodell Library.

Renew Annual Licenses

VOTED unanimously to renew the licenses listed below, for January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008, subject to the conditions that are attached to the licenses being renewed.

BUSINESS	TYPE OF LICENSE
Andiamo 485 West Street	Common Victualler
Baku's African Restaurant 197 N. Pleasant Street	Common Victualler
Dunkin' Donuts 312 College Street	Common Victualler
Pizza Rama 356 College Street	Common Victualler
Rolando's 25 N Pleasant Street	Common Victualler
Starbucks 71 N. Pleasant Street	Common Victualler
Subway 4 Main Street	Common Victualler

EXECUTIVE SESSION

VOTED unanimously to adjourn to executive session at 9:15 p.m. for the purpose of discussing non-union personnel – employee compensation. The open meeting will not reconvene following the Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously to adjourn at _____ p.m.

Approved minutes, as amended, at the March 3, 2008 Select Board Meeting.