

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

Present: Stephanie O’Keeffe, Jim Wald, Alisa Brewer, Aaron Hayden, Diana Stein

Absent: None

Staff: John Musante, Town Manager; David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager; Sandy Pooler, Finance Director; Claire McGinnis, Treasurer/Collector; and Deborah Radway, Human Resources Director

Other: Tony Butterfield (chair), Ron Bell, Chris Hoffman, Rebecca Woodland (members of the Personnel Board)

Meeting called to order by Ms. O’Keeffe at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comment

Bill Ellsasser of Ann Whalen Apartments noted a shredded orange cone exists in front of the Amherst Fire Department, urging its removal by the Department of Public Works.

Election Warrant

VOTED unanimously to authorize the March 25, 2014 Annual Town Election Warrant, as presented.

Citation in Celebration of League of Women Voters of Amherst 75th Anniversary

Ms. O’Keeffe reported a formal celebration is planned for this Saturday; Ms. Brewer is attending and presenting the citation on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to celebrate the accomplishments of the League of Women Voters of Amherst on its 75 year history, and further, urge Amherst citizens to support the League of Women Voters of Amherst in its work to encourage informed participation at all levels of government, and through education and advocacy influence major public policy.

Taxi Driver Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve a new 2014 taxi driver/chauffeur license for Marquis Daniels on behalf of Aarons Paradise Taxi.

VOTED unanimously to approve a new 2014 taxi driver/chauffeur license for Raphael W. Richter on behalf of Funky Cab.

Special Liquor Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve a special all alcohol liquor license for The Common School for a fundraiser to be held from 7:00 p.m.- 11:00 p.m., March 22, 2014 in the Amherst College Alumni House; Dana Kadish, Director of Admissions and Outreach.

VOTED unanimously to approve a special wine and malt license application for Pratt’s Inc., d/b/a R & P Liquor for Division III night to be held from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., March 6, 2014 in the Prescott Tavern at Hampshire College, Amherst; Nathan Day, Manager.

VOTED unanimously to approve a special all alcohol liquor license for Top of the Campus Inc. for a reception to be held from 5:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. March 29, 2014 on the 1st, 2nd and 3rd floors of the W.E.B. Dubois Library, UMass Amherst; Judy Bardwell, Clerk.

VOTED unanimously to approve a special wine and malt license application for Top of the Campus Inc. for a reception to be held from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. February 27, 2014 in the Fine Arts Center Gallery, Museum of Contemporary Art; Judy Bardwell, Clerk.

VOTED unanimously to approve special wine and malt license applications for Top of the Campus Inc. for the following events in the Fine Arts Center, UMass Amherst; Judy Bardwell, Clerk:

Concession sales	March 1, 2014	7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Concession sales	March 5, 2014	6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Concession sales	March 26, 2014	6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Concession sales	March 29, 2014	7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.
Concession sales	March 31, 2014	6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
Concession sales	April 13, 2014	3:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
Concession sales	April 27, 2014	6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Minutes

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of September 30, 2013, October 7, 2013, October 17, 2013 and October 21, 2013, as presented.

Appointments

VOTED unanimously to appoint Susan Phillips and Melissa Perot to the Public Shade Tree Committee, both with terms to expire June 30, 2017.

VOTED unanimously to confirm the Town Manager’s appointment of Fletcher Clark to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2017.

Members and Chair’s Reports

Ms. O’Keeffe provided a brief note on the value of a performance evaluation and goal setting process, referencing a recent Hadley editorial as a good reminder of the importance of the process.

Upcoming events were highlighted, including a planned Coffee Hour at the UMass Office Campus Student Center February 26, 2014 to meet with students.

Ms. O’Keeffe reported the deadline of February 21, 2014 for receipt of applications for the available Wine and Malt On Premise License had passed, reporting the Town had received one application which will be considered on March 17, 2014.

Mr. Hayden announced a second public meeting to be held by the Public Works Committee on Thursday, March 6, 2014 regarding the Mill Street bridge near Puffer’s Pond.

Ms. Brewer reported on deadlines for filing petitions and submissions for mailings for Annual Town Meeting.

Personnel Board Recommendation – Non Union Compensation and Classification Plan

Personnel Board chair Tony Butterfield summarized the process leading to its recommendation of the Personnel Classification and Compensation System as presented. Human Resource Director Deb Radway answered questions posed by Select Board members.

VOTED unanimously, as recommended by the Personnel Board, to approve a new Town of Amherst Compensation and Classification Plan, without further consideration of a FY 15 Cost of Living increase.

VOTED unanimously to approve a cash payment, not added to the base salary, so that employees on the new salary plan receive at least a 2% increase in regular wages in FY 15 over what they received in regular wages in FY 14.

Deb Radway and Alisa Brewer provided updates on celebrations which occurred over the weekend, as well as future events related to Black History Month. An official citation from the Legislature recognizing the Amherst Human Rights Commission and a proclamation from the Governor, both related to Black History Month, were exhibited.

Parking Regulations Proposed Changes - Public Hearing

Ms. O’Keeffe explained and Ms. McGinnis answered questions on proposed changes to parking regulations presented.

Opened Public Hearing 7:07 p.m. No public comment offered. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:09 p.m.

VOTED unanimously to approve the following recommended change to parking regulations:

Boltwood Garage Reserve Parking

To increase the annual rate for lease of reserved space in the lower level of Boltwood Garage from \$850 to \$950 per year effective July 1, 2014.

Opened Public Hearing 7:10 p.m. No public comment offered. The Public Hearing was closed at 7:17 p.m.

VOTED unanimously to approve the following recommended change to parking regulations:

No Parking – Tow Zone

To prohibit parking (Tow Zone) on the south side of Cosby Avenue at all times, and prohibit parking (Tow Zone) on the north side of Cosby Avenue, Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

New Common Victualler

Richard French, owner, spoke about the business, a 25 year old company based in Keene, NH, which strives to be green as well as serve locally sourced foods. A soft opening is set for mid-March with service of breakfast and lunch.

VOTED unanimously to approve a common victualler license for Bagel Works Inc. d/b/a The Works Bakery Cafe at 48 North Pleasant Street operating seven days weekly between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m.; Richard F. French II, Owner.

Establish School Zone

Mr. Musante spoke about the process and recommendation from the Public Works Committee, based on the need to improve public safety through a reduction in speed.

VOTED unanimously to establish a school zone with a posted speed limit of 25 mph for Wildwood School on Strong Street, 570 feet east of the entrance to Wildwood School and to sign the school zone in accordance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the Massachusetts amendments to this manual.

CDBG Update

Mr. Musante provided an update, summarized in a memo presented to the Select Board in this evening’s packet, regarding recent developments and resulting change in approach to the Community Development Block Grant process. Level of commitment and work on part of staff related to affordable housing piece was emphasized and commended. Ms. O’Keeffe read aloud a letter she had drafted on behalf of the Select Board to the owner of Echo Village, Jamie Cherewatti of Eagle Crest Property Management, expressing extreme disappointment in his rejection of a recent purchase offer which would have provided continuation of those affordable housing units in Amherst. Select Board members voiced their sentiments on the considerations and rationale for social services

portions that the CDBG grant would have funded noted as critical by the CDBG Committee and as recommended by the Town Manager including the winter shelter, emergency fund, and local food pantry.

Town Manager Report

Mr. Musante reported that he will be attending and intends to speak at a Joint House and Senate Ways and Means Hearing to be held at UMass Amherst on February 25, emphasizing that if lottery revenues are increasing and exceeding projections, so should Municipal Aid funding to cities and towns.

The Town has reached a tentative agreement with the DPW rank and file association on a new three year collective bargaining agreement beginning July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2016. Terms are consistent with the Town's other collective bargaining units, the key item a 2% wage increase in each of the three years. Negotiations continue with the Police Supervisors Unit.

Standard & Poor's has notified the Town that our Bond rating has earned an upgrade from AA to AA+ with a stable outlook, citing strong budgetary performance and flexibility, and strong management conditions. Recognition of Sandy Pooler's skills and leadership of the Finance Department were highly praised, as well as those of the financial team: Comptroller Sonia Aldrich, Treasurer Collector Claire McGinnis and Principal Assessor David Burgess. Praise was also lauded on Human Resources Director Deb Radway related to her support of the Personnel Board and consultant, her tenacity in helping to obtain comparable data, and leading the effort to keep non-union staff informed and engaged throughout the process of the classification plan update. Mr. Musante also recognized Mary Decker, Town Hall building maintenance for her dedication, coming in on Saturday to ensure the sidewalks and front steps were accessible for the Human Rights event, which is only one of the many ways Ms. Decker displays her pride in her every day work.

Mr. Musante provided an update on the battle with reemergence of potholes, noting DPW is working continuously to address. An update on the 2014 paving plan will be provided at the next Select Board's meeting. The plan is in an attempt to address the estimated \$16 million backlog of road maintenance that remains notwithstanding the \$5.5 million of property tax-funded borrowing the Town has issued over the last three or four years, in addition to Chapter 90 grant funds. One third of capital dollars are now being spent on roads. Kestrel Land Trust has received a \$1.5 million grant from the State Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs for protection of a 1,200 acre portion of Mt. Holyoke range, State Park and prime farmland.

The Town-Gown Committee, focused on housing and economic development opportunities between the Town and the University of Massachusetts, has invited three of the bidders to make further presentations on Tuesday, March 4 from 4-8 pm before recommending a finalist to the Town Manager and Chancellor.

The Town Manager indicated he remains very bullish on potential development in the north end of downtown, recently working with WMECo and owners of Kendrick Place relative for redevelopment of the parcel next to Bertucci's, hoping to find a more cost effective way for the developer to accommodate the above ground wires adjacent to the parcel that will allow the development to proceed uninterrupted. Kendrick Place is expected to add 27 loft-style residential apartments to downtown as well as ground floor commercial retail space, which works to build momentum for redevelopment of adjacent parcels.

Next Saturday, March 1, 2014, planning staff is hosting a forum relative to proposed zoning at Atkins Corner, including a walking tour. It was requested that staff explore the repetition of the Planning staff-led tour portion as an additional opportunity from the TMCC bus tour to provide a greater opportunity to those Town Meeting members not able to be present on Saturday.

Ms. Stein reported on her attendance at CPAC and Personnel Board meetings. Mr. Hayden reported on recent Recycling & Refuse Management Committee's work. Mr. Wald reported on issues addressed by JCPC recently. Ms. Brewer reported on CDBG Advisory Committee's meeting change for reprogramming of funds, Regional Redistricting Planning Board structure moving forward and Human Rights Commission's work/events.

Upcoming meeting dates were reviewed by the Chair, as she noted the success of the Walk this Way program and cooperation with University on messaging in place for the upcoming St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Executive Session

VOTED by Roll Call: O'Keeffe, Aye; Hayden, Aye; Stein, Aye; Wald, Aye and Brewer, Aye to adjourn to Executive Session per MGL Chapter 30A §21a, 6 to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, (Rolling Green and Echo Village Apartments) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position and open session will NOT reconvene at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:56 p.m.

Submitted by John P. Musante, Town Manager

- Agenda
- Draft Motions
- Personnel Board Recommendation
- Non-Union Compensation Study FAQ
- Final Compensation Report
- Lower Boltwood Garage Reserved Fee Recommendation
- Cosby Avenue Parking Recommendation and Map
- Common Victualler License - The Works Bakery Café
- School Zone Recommendation from PWC and map
- CDBG Update Memo from Town Manager
- 2014 CDBG Recommendations
- Select Board letter to Echo Village Owner
- Performance Evaluation Editorial
- Annual Town Election Warrant 03.25.14
- Citation for LWV 75 year Anniversary
- Taxi Driver applications
- Special Liquor License applications
- Draft Minutes