

**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; Claire McGinnis, Treasurer/Collector; Guilford Mooring, DPW Superintendent; Sandra Burgess, Town Clerk

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

Ms. O’Keeffe indicated 7 p.m. Human Rights agenda item was postponed.

**Public Comment**

Rob Kusner requested the Select Board to evaluate the process that led to the inability to file the CDBG grant application. He urged development of alternative projects in addition to Echo Village.

**Taxi Driver Licenses**

VOTED unanimously to approve a new 2014 taxi driver/chauffeur license for Hassan Oulbeid on behalf of Grab A Cab.

VOTED unanimously to approve a new 2014 taxi driver/chauffeur license for Tamika Smith on behalf of A to Z Taxi.

**Special Liquor Licenses**

VOTED unanimously to approve the Special All Alcohol Liquor License for Amherst College Dining Services for a cash bar for a student casino event to be held on Friday, March 7, 2014 at Keefe Campus Center, Amherst College from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.; Greg Wardlaw, Catering Manager.

VOTED unanimously to approve the Special All Alcohol Liquor License for Amherst College Dining Services for a cash bar for a catered wedding to be held on Saturday, May 3, 2014 at Lewis Sebring Commons in Valentine Hall, Amherst College from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.; Molly Venne, Catering Manager.

VOTED unanimously to approve the Wine and Malt Special License for Amherst College Dining Services for a cash bar for a 21 and over Pub Night event to be held on Thursday, March 6, 2014 at Schwemm’s Coffee House, Keefe Campus Center, Amherst College from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.; Charles Thompson, Director.

VOTED unanimously to approve the Wine and Malt Special License for Amherst College Dining Services for a cash bar for a 21 and over Pub Night event to be held on Thursday, March 13, 2014 at Schwemm’s Coffee House, Keefe Campus Center, Amherst College from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.; Charles Thompson, Director.

VOTED unanimously to approve the Wine and Malt Special License for Amherst College Dining Services for a cash bar for a 21 and over Pub Night event to be held on Thursday, March 27, 2014 at Schwemm’s Coffee House, Keefe Campus Center, Amherst College from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.; Charles Thompson, Director.

VOTED unanimously to approve a Wine and Malt Special License for Top of the Campus Inc. for a reception to be held from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. March 10, 2014 in the Isenberg School of Management, Room 111, UMass Amherst; Judy Bardwell, Clerk.

VOTED unanimously to approve a Wine and Malt Special License for Top of the Campus Inc. for a reception to be held from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. March 12, 2014 in the Conte Building Main Atrium, UMass Amherst; Judy Bardwell, Clerk.

**Minutes**

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of October 28, 2013, November 4, 2013, December 2, 2013, and December 16, 2013 as amended.

Ms. O’Keeffe reviewed calendar items: upcoming liquor license public hearings, town elections and reorganization of the Select Board. Notice of the Public Works Committee hearing Thursday, March 6, 2014 in the Town Room regarding the Mill River Bridge was also provided.

**Chair’s Report**

Announcement of seven petition articles received for Annual Town Meeting, copies forthcoming. Attendance at the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Four Town Meeting held this past Saturday provided a report from Shutesbury representatives of the possibility of a shift to not support use of the regional agreement assessment method. Assessment method trends were distributed and will be made available online. Ms. O’Keeffe reported her final office hours at Black Sheep will be on March 17, 2014, 7:30 – 10:00 a.m.

**Committee Appointments**

VOTED unanimously to confirm the Town Manager’s appointment of Brett Butler to the Conservation Commission for a term to expire June 30, 2015.

**Sign Bond Issuance Notes for Borrowing, as Approved by Town Meeting**

Claire McGinnis, Treasurer Collector reported on capital projects to be funded through the bond issue. Six bids were received with a winning bid providing a 2.61% interest rate with a premium of \$77,000, which will be used to cover closing costs.

Mr. Musante and Finance Director Sandy Pooler explained the role of the Select Board to approve the bond sale and the Town’s accompanying upgrade of its bond rating. Criteria noted as responsible for upgrade to AA+ with a stable outlook included strong budgetary performance, flexibility and management conditions. Full report available on the Town website. Select Board members noted appreciation to Finance staff.

VOTED unanimously that the sale of the \$3,301,000 General Obligation Municipal Purpose Loan of 2014 Bonds of the Town dated March 11, 2014 (the "Bonds"), to Robert W. Baird & Co., Inc. at the price of \$3,378,084.42 and accrued interest, if any, is hereby approved and confirmed. The Bonds shall be payable on March 1 of the years and in the principal amounts and bear interest at the respective rates, as follows:

Year	Amount	Interest Rate	Year	Amount	Interest Rate
2015	\$301,000	2.00%	2021	\$160,000	2.00%
2016	300,000	2.00	2022	160,000	2.00
2017	300,000	2.00	2024	320,000	3.00
2018	300,000	2.00	2028	400,000	3.00
2019	300,000	2.00	2034	600,000	3.75

2020                      160,000                      2.00

And further, that the Bonds maturing on March 1, 2024, March 1, 2028 and March 1, 2034 (each a "Term Bond") shall be subject to mandatory redemption or mature as follows:

Term Bond due March 1, 2024

Year	Amount
2023	\$160,000
2024*	160,000

\*Final Maturity

Term Bond due March 1, 2028

Year	Amount
2025	\$100,000
2026	100,000
2027	100,000
2028*	100,000

\*Final Maturity

Term Bond due March 1, 2034

Year	Amount
2029	\$100,000
2030	100,000
2031	100,000
2032	100,000
2033	100,000
2034*	100,000

\*Final Maturity

And further, that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Bonds, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated February 13, 2014, and a final Official Statement dated February 25, 2014 (the "Official Statement"), each in such form as may be approved by the Town Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

And further, that the Bonds shall be subject to redemption, at the option of the Town, upon such terms and conditions as are set forth in the Official Statement.

And further, that the Town Treasurer and the Select Board be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a continuing disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the Town, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Bonds for the benefit of the holders of the Bonds from time to time.

And further, that each member of the Select Board, the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

## **Member Reports**

Ms. Stein reported on recent JCPC meeting, noting IT and DPW capital requests were presented. Mr. Wald reported on recent Atkins Corner presentation by ZBA. Ms. Brewer presented LWV programs from their recent anniversary celebration, highlighting the event. Ms. Brewer recounted deadlines for voter registration and packet submission, noting Housing Sheltering Committee's intent to submit an article for creation of an Affordable Housing Trust.

## **2014 Road Construction and Paving Plan**

Mr. Musante spoke about the 2014 paving plan and funding methods, including both state Chapter 90 and settlement funds from the contractor from 2013 reclaiming projects. DPW Superintendent Guilford Mooring responded to questions and reported on the new pavement condition index system being utilized for rating of road conditions, which will be available online upon completion.

## **Call Special Town Meeting, per Citizens' Petition**

Ms. O'Keeffe described statutory requirements for petitioning a special town meeting and the process which occurred for her selecting potential dates, noting both the Town Clerk and Moderator were in support of a date prior to the Town election. Inquiry on what occurs if a quorum is not reached has been referred to Counsel.

VOTED unanimously to call a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday, March 19, 2014, as requested by petitions presented February 24, 2014, to see if the Town will vote to petition the General Court, in compliance with clause (1), Section 8 of Article LXXXIX of the Amendments of the Constitution, "An act allowing the Town of Amherst to mandate employers compensate their employees at a rate no less than \$15 per hour."

## **FY 15 Budget Discussion**

Social Service needs were reviewed and key Town obligations identified, as recommended by the CDBG Advisory Committee, despite lack of CDBG funds to support the winter emergency shelter (\$70,000), the Town's emergency fund (\$20,000) and the Survival Center food pantry program (\$35,000) with Free Cash as the funding source. Possibility of inclusion of the emergency fund as a budget line item was suggested for FY 16 policy consideration.

Mr. Musante reported on his testimony as a member of the Massachusetts Municipal Association panel before the House and Senate Joint Ways and Means hearing held at UMass on February 25, urging a proportional increase to local aid to growth in overall state revenues.

Ms. O'Keeffe reviewed Budget Coordinating Group summary points from its February 27 meeting.

## **Town Manager's Report**

Mr. Ziomek provided a review and answered questions on emergency shelter data provided with comparison of prior years' supplied by Craig's Doors. Process and cooperation required of parties involved to provide expansion of hours or capacity related to severe weather was outlined.

Mr. Musante delineated PVRTA service changes recommendations and next steps including a series of public hearings for additional public feedback prior to a vote for any specific route changes. The focus is on frequency of runs, route design, and ridership data with goal of implementation in September time frame for academic calendar.

Update on ongoing issues included report of 304 police officer candidates for entrance exam; five staff members: Sean Hannon - IT, Robert Delgado and Kevin Sampson - DPW, Brad Bordewieck - Land Manager and Stacy LeCuvire - LSSE were selected to participate in the next Supervisory Leadership Development Program at UMass.

Reported on attendance at ribbon cutting ceremony for All Things Local Cooperative and waiting on tables for Survival Center fundraising event; future meetings of Town Gown Study Committee tomorrow in the Amherst Room at the Campus Center and again the following Thursday at UMPD; and planning and coordination relative to

pre-Saint Patrick Day events. Handout provided related to available summer job opportunities including internships in DPW engineering, laborers in parks, public works, and recreation facilities crews.

Announced a reception immediately preceding next Select Board meeting, March 17, 2014 from 4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. in recognition of departing Select Board members Stephanie O’Keefe and Diana Stein.

**Executive Session**

VOTED by Roll Call Vote O’Keefe - Aye, Hayden - Aye, Stein – Aye, Wald - Aye, Brewer - Aye to adjourn to Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing/approving Executive Session Minutes on the following:  
MGL Ch 30A, §21a, part 6: To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property (Echo Village, Rolling Green Apts., other) MGL Ch 30A, §21a, part 3: To conduct collective bargaining strategy (for all Town unions); MGL Ch 30A, §21a, part 3: To discuss litigation strategy (landfill solar project); MGL Ch 30A, §21a, part 2: To conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel (Town Manager John Musante) and open session will NOT reconvene at the conclusion of the Executive Session.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned to Executive Session at 8:57 p.m.

Submitted by John P. Musante, Town Manager

**List of Documents Presented at the Meeting - Available in the Online Packet for the Meeting Date**

- Agenda - final
- Draft Motions
- Bond Sale and Standard and Poors Credit Rating
- Bond Sale Vote of the Select Board
- Standard and Poors Credit Rating Report for Amherst MA dated Feb 24 2014
- DPW Major Construction Projects in 2014
- Petition - Special Town Meeting - Minimum Wage
- PVTA Comprehensive Service Analysis
- Budget Coordinating Group Summary Points - Feb 27 2014
- UTI1 Taxi Driver Application - Oulbeid, H\_Redacted
- 2013-10-28 Minutes
- 2013-11-04 Minutes
- 2013-12-02 Minutes
- 2013-12-16 Minutes
- Taxi Driver Application - Smith, T\_Redacted
- Special Wine and Malt - Amherst College 3.6, 3.13, 3.27.14
- Special All Alcohol - Amherst College 3.7.14 and 5.3.14
- Special Wine and Malt - UMass 3.10.14
- Special Wine and Malt - UMass 3.12.14