

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

Present: Jim Wald, Alisa Brewer, Aaron Hayden, Constance Kruger, Andrew Steinberg

Absent: None

Staff: John Musante, Town Manager; Sandy Pooler, Finance Director; Sharon Sharry, Library Director; Guilford Mooring, DPW Superintendent

Other: Christine Gray-Mullen, Public Works Committee Chair

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

Mr. Wald welcomed new members of the Select Board: Constance Kruger and Andrew Steinberg

Public Comment

Helen Berg reported she had contacted the ACLU and Election Division of the Attorney General's office regarding election issues. Questioned whether the Town Manager ordered Amherst Police to stop buses in North Amherst on March 8, 2014 and whether Peter Jessop appears to have conflict of interest on the Amherst Redevelopment Authority due to his relationship to Integrity Builders.

Mr. Musante reviewed the notice of borrowing included in tonight's packet as voted by the School Committee for a handful of capital projects, all of which are consistent with budget and capital planning, noting his recommendation in support of the action. No action by the Select Board is necessary unless a member Town of the District objects, which would require an expression of disapproval in the form of a Town Meeting vote. No action was taken by the Select Board.

Child Abuse Proclamation

VOTED unanimously to declare April 2014 Child Abuse Prevention Month and direct that the Children's Memorial Flag be raised at the Town Common on Tuesday, April 24, 2014.

Parking and Street Closure Requests - Extravaganja

Mr. Musante reviewed the annual request and enclosed map, noting a small portion of the North Common will be used for vendors. Police Chief Livingstone has met with the applicants on multiple occasions and emphasized that no parking on the Common may occur.

VOTED unanimously to close that portion of Spring Street between South Pleasant Street and Boltwood Avenue to through traffic and reserve the south side of the Spring Street metered parking lot, six (6) metered parking spaces on the west side of Boltwood Avenue, and six (6) metered parking spaces on the east side of South Pleasant Street, as shown on the parking map entitled Extravaganja 2014, between the hours of 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday, April 12, 2014.

Post-Election Reorganization of Select Board

VOTED unanimously to elect Aaron Hayden as Chair.

VOTED unanimously to continue current practice of rotating Vice Chair position monthly.

VOTED unanimously to elect Andrew Steinberg as Clerk.

Public Works Committee Recommendation – Mill Street Bridge

Superintendent Guilford Mooring and Public Works Committee chair Christine Gray-Mullen provided an overview of the alternatives considered by the Public Works Committee and its recommendation related to the

design for the Mill Street Bridge reconstruction. It was the consensus of the Select Board for one way traffic to move in a southerly direction.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to MA Department of Transportation that a replacement bridge be designed and constructed as a new single lane bridge with a multiuse path, as shown on a Draft Plan dated March 2014 and identified as "Improvements of Mill Street Bridge over Mill River – Task Order #11," by CDM Smith.

Liquor Licenses - Public Hearing
Oriental Flavor – New On Premise Wine & Malt

Opened Public Hearing 7:10 p.m. Select Board reviewed and accepted a letter formally requesting withdrawal of the application without prejudice. Closed Public Hearing at 7:12 p.m.

Voting and Assignment of Select Board Positions on Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Mr. Hayden noted it was his intent to continue the tradition of designating a Select Board member to speak on behalf of the Select Board in regard to each Article. That member will also take responsibility for writing a brief statement for a Select Board Report to Town Meeting members to be included in the second mailing.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 1 – Reports of Boards and Committees; Constance Kruger to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Finance Director Sandy Pooler summarized financial articles, referring to the Town Manager's budget and a memo Mr. Pooler submitted regarding a change in accounting procedures within the Transportation Fund.

VOTED unanimously to recommend dismissal to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 2 - Transfer of Funds - Unpaid Bills; Constance Kruger to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 3 – Optional Tax Exemptions; Constance Kruger to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4 – Authorization for Compensating Balances; Constance Kruger to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 6 – FY 14 Budget Amendments, Part A in the amount of \$61,085.00; Andrew Steinberg to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 6 – FY 14 Budget Amendments, Part B in the amount of \$54,000; Andrew Steinberg to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 6 – FY 14 Budget Amendments, Part C in the amount of \$167,028.47; Andrew Steinberg to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend dismissal to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 6 – FY 14 Budget Amendments, Part D to Town Meeting; Andrew Steinberg to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 7 – Retirement Assessment in the amount of \$4,204,149; Alisa Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 8 – Regional Lockup in the amount of \$35,928; Alisa Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend/not recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 9 – OPEB Funding in the amount of \$100,000; Andrew Steinberg to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Sharon Sharry, Jones Library Director, provided an explanation on the need for the feasibility study and a review of the proposed library budget.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 5 – Jones Library Feasibility Study, Part A. to proceed with a feasibility study and Part B. in the amount of \$25,000; Constance Kruger to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Andrew Steinberg disclosed that his wife is a part-time employee at the North Amherst branch and, on advice of the State Ethics Commission, he would not vote on any library funding matter related in whole or in part to payment for part-time employees.

VOTED 4-0 with 1 Abstention (Steinberg) to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 12– Library Operating Budget, in the amount of \$2,369,592 with Town tax support of \$1,788,533; James Wald to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 12 – Operating Budget, General Government in the amount of \$6,333,845, Public Safety in the amount of \$9,596,952, Public Works in the amount of \$2,076,997, Conservation and Development in the amount of \$1,161,383, Community Services in the amount of \$1,778,749, Water Fund in the amount of \$3,801,288, Sewer Fund in the amount of \$3,803,569, Solid Waste Fund in the amount of \$491,133, Transportation Fund in the amount of \$716,717 and Debt Service in the amount of \$2,038,170, for a total amount of \$31,798,803; Alisa Brewer to speak to General Government, Community Services, Conservation & Development, Debt Service and Public Works; Constance Kruger to Water, Sewer, Solid Waste and Transportation Funds; and Jim Wald on Public Safety, all on behalf of the Select Board.

Mr. Musante explained his proposal to fund Social Services, as recommended by the CDBG Advisory Committee. Ms. Kruger requested a report detailing categories of use and expenses of the CDBG-funded emergency fund.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 21 – Social Services Funding in the amount of \$125,000; Alisa Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Town Manager Report

Mr. Musante reported that no new information on Rolling Green or Echo Village Apartments is available at this time. The Community Preservation Act Committee will make a presentation to the Select Board at its April 16, 2014 meeting on their specific recommendations, which includes \$750,000 for the preservation of affordable housing at Rolling Green Apartments with bonds issued for a minimum of 20 years.

The Town's Rental Property Registration Program has accepted over 900 permit applications to date, greater than 60% of estimated rental properties. Property owners are working with inspection staff on development and submittal of parking plans. Mr. Musante wished to recognize all of the staff who have been working so hard, collaboratively, in this first year of the program to elicit such an impressive response: Building Commissioner Rob Morra, Inspectors Jon Thompson, Dave Waskiewicz and Terry Avery, our new Permit Administrator Lindsey Britt, and inspections administrative staff Jennifer Gannett, Libby Lass and Denise Berry, as well as Director Julie Federman and Inspector Ed Smith in the Health Department, Mike Roy from the Fire Department and Jeff Bagg on behalf of the ZBA.

A desire for greater recycling in the downtown brought together staff from DPW, including Alan Snow and Recycling Coordinator Susan Waite, a member of our Recycling and Refuse Management Committee, and representatives from the BID to explore options, which resulted in creation of a pilot program to begin in July.

A letter about the cable television ascertainment process will be going out to Comcast in the coming days to formally begin the renewal process, as the current ten year license is expiring in October 2016. Mr. Musante indicated he was eager to hear from citizens interested in participating as a member of the Cable Advisory Committee. Mr. Musante indicated the Cable Advisory Committee will be subject to the open meeting law and that he will work in consultation with the Select Board as the issuing authority, similar to the CDBG process.

A public forum is planned for tomorrow evening April 1 at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall regarding possible design options for improvements to the North Common, which is preceded by a site visit at 6 p.m. Recommendations will serve as the basis for a state PARC grant application and possibility the application for local CPA funds as a match.

The Public Works Committee will be meeting Thursday, April 3, 2014 at 7 p.m. in Town Hall to complete discussion on the one-way traffic flow for the Mill River Bridge and design options for the Pine Street project.

The Annual Town Meeting Warrant Review sponsored by the Amherst League of Women Voters and the Town Meeting Coordinating Committee is scheduled for April 8, 2014 in the Town Room, providing sponsors of articles a brief opportunity to summarize articles for Town Meeting members.

Member Reports

The Chair recognized the need to review Select Board liaison appointment on a future agenda. Ms. Brewer offered to serve as the point of contact for members to indicate their preferences.

Mr. Musante noted that at the time he and UMass Chancellor Subbaswamy appointed members to serve on the Town-Gown Study Committee, he appointed former Chair Stephanie O’Keeffe as a Town representative. He would like Ms. O’Keeffe to continue, however he urged the Select Board to consider if they wish to have additional representation.

Jim Wald and Alisa Brewer reported on attendance at recent NAACP and school committee meetings regarding recent racial incidents, noting positive discussions, non-confrontational, with the goal of finding common ground and solutions. The Human Rights Commission to assist in the community conversation. Constance Kruger suggested the issues are really community-wide and would like Select Board to help.

Parking and Street Closure Requests

Sustainability Festival

VOTED unanimously to reserve twenty-two (22) metered parking spaces on the west side of Boltwood Avenue beginning at Spring Street and going south to College Street from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, April 26, 2014 for the Sustainability Festival.

May Day Celebration

VOTED unanimously to approve the blocking off of Henry Street in Cushman Village for their annual May Day celebration on Saturday, May 3, 2014 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Bay State Bike Week

VOTED unanimously to close that portion of Spring Street between South Pleasant Street and Boltwood Avenue to through traffic and reserve the metered Spring Street lot between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 6 p.m. on May 14, 2014 for the Annual Bike Rodeo and the metered Main Street lot between the hours of 6 a.m. and 4 p.m. on Friday, May 16, 2014 for the annual Bike Commute Breakfast and Bicycle Show.

Lord Jeffery Inn on behalf of MAPD

VOTED unanimously to reserve forty (40) parking spaces on both the east and west side of Boltwood Avenue between Spring Street and College Street between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. on May 5 and 6, 2014 for the Lord Jeffery Inn on behalf of the Massachusetts Association of Planning Directors Annual Meeting.

Mr. Musante reported on a need of a local business that sustained water damage, requiring reservation of several spaces the Boltwood Garage lot.

VOTED unanimously to reserve 2 spaces in northwest corner of Boltwood Lot for Sei Bella Salon for dumpster and storage pod for emergency building repairs from April 1 to May 1, 2014, as needed, at cost of \$5.00 per day per space.

Taxi Driver Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve a new 2014 taxi driver/chauffeur license for Oliver Koh on behalf of Funky Cab.

VOTED unanimously to approve a new 2014 taxi driver/chauffeur license for Marcie Beth McCullough on behalf of Celebrity Cab Company.

VOTED unanimously to approve a new 2014 taxi driver/chauffeur license for Courtney Whitely on behalf of Ambassador Taxi.

Special Liquor Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of the Mount Warner Vineyards, LLC of Hadley MA for a license to sell wine produced by or on their behalf in sealed containers for off-premise consumption at the Amherst Farmers Market in the Spring Street parking lot on Saturdays, April 19, 2014 through November 22, 2014 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., pursuant to Chapter 138, Section 15F of the Massachusetts General Laws; Gary Kamen; owner/manager.

VOTED unanimously to approve special all alcoholic license for Paper City Brewery on behalf of KRide, Inc. to be held from 12:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m., Sunday, June 1, 2014 outside of Robert Crown Center, Hampshire College, 893 West Street, Amherst; Corinne Briggs, Event Coordinator.

VOTED unanimously to approve a special wine and malt license for Pratt's Inc. d/b/a R & P Liquors from 8 p.m. to 12:00 midnight April 3, 2014, for a fundraiser at the Tavern at Hampshire College, 893 West Street, Amherst, MA; Nathan Day, Manager.

VOTED unanimously to approve a special all alcohol license for Top of the Campus, Inc. for a reception to be held in Commonwealth College Multipurpose Room, UMass Amherst from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m., April 7, 2014; Judy Bardwell, Clerk.

VOTED unanimously to amend the date and time of a special all-alcohol license for Top of the Campus, Inc. originally granted for April 15, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. for a reception in the Fine Arts Center/Museum of Contemporary Art, UMass Amherst to April 8, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Judy Bardwell, Clerk.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

VOTED unanimously to authorize the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, as presented.

The Chair provided review of calendar items.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 9:20 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

Draft Motions

655A DPW Mill St Bridge recommendation
655B Mill St Bridge Mass DOT letter
655C CDM Smith Plans for Mill St Bridge Reconstruction
655D PWC Recommendation Mill River Bridge
705 A20 CDBG 2014 Recommendations 02 07 2014
705 Background Info to SB on Articles
FINAL Warrant 042814 ATM
Library Feasibility Study Handout 3.31.14
UTI2 Regional School District Notice of borrowing
UTI3 CHD April Flag Raising Event
UTI3 CHD April Flag Raising Event Revised
UTI3 CHD April Flag Raising Event
UTI3B CHD Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month
UTI4-A1 Extravaganja Parking Request 2014
UTI4-A2 Extravaganja Email from Chief
UTI4-A3 Extravaganja Map
UTI4-B Sustainability Festival Map
UTI4-B Sustainability Festival parking request 2014
UTI4-C Cushman May Day map
UTI4-C May Day at Cushman Scott Children's Center
UTI4-D Bay State Bike Week Map
UTI4-D Bike State Bike Week 2014 Parking Reservation Request
UTI4-E Lord Jeff MAPD 6.5-6.14
UTI4-E Parking Request MAPD June 5-6 2014
UTI5 Taxi Driver Application - Koh, O - Funky Cab
UTI5 Taxi Driver Application - McCullough, M Celebrity
UTI5 Taxi Driver Application Whitely, C - Ambassador Taxi
UTI6 Application Farmer Winery to sell at Farmers Market- Mt Warner Vineyards
UTI6-B Special All Alcohol - Paper City Brewery 6.1.14
UTI6-C Special Wine and Malt - R and P Liquors 4.3.14
UTI6-D Special Wine and Malt - UMass 4.7.14
UTI6-E Special License UMass Request to Change Date and Time