

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

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

Absent: None

Staff: John Musante, Town Manager; David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager; Sandy Pooler, Finance Director; Deborah Radway, Director of Human Resources & Human Rights; David Burgess, Principal Assessor;

Other: Tony Butterfield and Ron Bell, Personnel Board

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

Public Comments

David Sloviter of 194 Lincoln Avenue read a statement expressing concerns about the One East Pleasant Street project under review by Planning Board, believing design and parking are inadequate. Mr. Sloviter suggested the Planning Board delay permitting until Kendrick Place is rented to see tenant profile.

Nancy Dubin, a Jones Library employee, expressed concerns about the part-time wage scale from Personnel Board being considered by the Select Board this evening.

Vince O'Connor of Summer Street suggested the placing of holiday decorations on street lights on East Pleasant Street and North Pleasant Street darkens areas and believes makes it unsafe for pedestrians, asking that they be removed from areas with crosswalks. Mr. O'Connor also urges the Select Board to pursue creation of incident response protocols as well as review of public safety training procedures and evaluation of potential police officers given recent events in Ferguson Missouri.

Public Hearing - Property Tax Classification

Public hearing was opened at 6:47 p.m. Town Manager John Musante explained to the Select Board that they would not be taking the usual votes this evening following the tax classification hearing on the tax rate or exemptions, as the Town of Amherst has not yet received the MA Department of Revenue's certification of our new growth, a fundamental part of setting our tax rate. The expectation is the votes will occur at the next Select Board meeting on December 15.

David Burgess, Principal Assessor, explained the data presented and the recommendation from Board of Assessors for a single tax rate for all classes of property. Public hearing was closed at 7:12 p.m.

Human Rights Day Proclamation

Director of Human Resources & Human Rights Deb Radway presented on behalf of the Human Rights Commission.

VOTED unanimously to proclaim December 10, 2014 as Human Rights Day in Amherst and encourage all Amherst citizens to be mindful of human rights principles and urge all municipal, state, federal, and international bodies to incorporate said principles into their laws and policies as a means to move toward the creation of a human rights culture which is a "lived awareness" of human rights principles.

Personnel Board – Part-time Wage Schedule Amendments

Select Board member Andy Steinberg advised that his wife is a part-time employee of the Jones Library and that upon consultation with the State Ethics Commission, is electing to not participate and exit the meeting prior to discussion. He asked that his vote be recorded as abstaining.

Personnel Board Chair Tony Butterfield introduced himself and member Ron Bell, thanking Ms. Radway for her work on the project. Mr. Butterfield summarized the recommendation of the Personnel Board to amend the part-

time wage schedule over a three year period to comply with the state's annual incremental increase to the minimum wage law.

VOTED Four in Favor with 1 Abstention (Steinberg) to adopt a new salary schedule for Part Time Hourly Employees effective annually on January 1, 2015, January 1, 2016, and January 1, 2017, as recommended by the Personnel Board at their meeting on November 19, 2014.

Mr. Steinberg rejoined the meeting.

License Agreement – Station Road Property

Assistant Town Manager David Ziomek summarized the history and purpose of the License Agreement, noting new owners of Starlight Farm, an equestrian business, were present this evening as was Diane Adair, the prior tenant, to answer any questions regarding continuance of a renewable license agreement to utilize the barns and pasture lands on Town-owned watershed land on Station Road.

VOTED unanimously to approve a three-year license for portions of the Station Road property described in a deed recorded with said Deeds in Book 5876, Page 334 at the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds.

Project Agreements for Watershed Land Acquisitions

Mr. Musante provided news from the Superintendent of Public Works on award of grants for fifty percent of the purchase price of two private properties to be added to our watershed, which had been approved by the June 2, 2014 Special Town Meeting.

VOTED unanimously as the Amherst Board of Water Commissioners to enter into a Project Agreement with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Division of Conservation Services Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program for the acquisition in fee simple of approximately 25+/- acres of land including any buildings thereon located at Sumner Mountain Road, in the Town of Shutesbury; 1.15 +/- acres of land including any buildings thereon located at Overlook Drive in the Town of Amherst for the purpose of permanent drinking water supply protection and land conservation..

FY16 Budget Policy Guidelines

The Select Board continued discussion on the draft policy guidelines presented by Chairman Hayden. It was agreed without formal vote that Mr. Hayden would offer a revised draft for approval at the December 15, 2014 Select Board meeting.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Musante briefed the Select Board on his impending creation of an Amherst Center Recreation Working Group comprised of Town staff, LSSE Commission, and community members to meet for a period of up to one year to assess and make recommendations to the Town Manager for the focus area that includes Town-owned Community Field, Town-owned Hawthorne property at 235 East Pleasant Street, the athletic fields and open space associated with Amherst-Pelham Regional High School and Amherst-Pelham Regional Middle School, and the fields associated with Wildwood Elementary School. Mr. Musante confirmed there would be a public process incorporated.

Mr. Musante acknowledged the entire staff of the Amherst IT Department (outgoing IT Director Kris Pacunas, incoming IT Director Sean Hannon, staff members Mike Olkin, Maria Racca, Bill Glover, Rich, Dudkiewicz, Gabe Owen) who earned the 2014 Best in Massachusetts – Excellence in Technology Award in the Improving Government Services category at the 4th Annual Massachusetts Digital Government Summit in Boston today.

Police Officer Marcus Humber was recognized for a Fill the Wagon food drive he spearheaded at the Police Station on November 25 that collected over 400 lbs. of non-perishable food for Not Bread Alone and Craig's Doors.

Mr. Musante reviewed PVTA ridership data for Amherst routes for the month of September was provided and highlighted a 19% increase from the same time last year.

He also reviewed 2015 Annual Town Meeting key dates, which will also be posted to the website, including zoning and general petition deadlines of January 26, 2014 and February 23, 2014, respectively.

Upcoming meetings and community events were reviewed, highlighting the Merry Maple event Friday evening December 5 and the Amherst Media reception planned to honor Isaac BenEzra on December 11.

Members and Chair Reports

Select Board members reported on their attendance at various meetings and events, as well as review of several upcoming calendar events. Highlighted was the UMass Master Plan Update on Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 6 p.m. in the Campus Center, the Housing and Sheltering Committee meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 2014 at 7 p.m. in the Town Report to review a report regarding the Seasonal Shelter, and Historical Commission Annual Preservation Awards to be presented at the Select Board meeting on December 15, 2014. A call for applications for available openings on the Lincoln-Sunset Local Historic District Study Committee openings was made.

Mr. Hayden presented his draft Select Board recap memo to the Town Meeting Coordinating Committee of the November 5, 2014 Special Town Meeting for future discussion.

A final approved copy of the Town Manager's FY 15 Performance Goals was provided to members as a courtesy. Mr. Hayden suggested the Select Board discuss the need for a mid-year report from the Town Manager given the scope. Members agreed that a mid-year report need not focus on each and every item, but rather be a summary of what has transpired to date.

Renewal of Annual Licenses

Mr. Musante reviewed those licenses that failed to renew by the deadline of November 30, 2014 including Thai Corner, Moti Inc., Arise and Drink Your Bliss and Amherst Chinese. All closed with the exception of Amherst Chinese which simply failed to renew despite repeated attempts from Town staff to contact them.

VOTED unanimously to approve the list of renewals for alcohol and non-alcohol licenses presented, dated December 1, 2014, subject to outstanding documentation pending for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

Change of Manager – Bon Appetit Management

VOTED unanimously to approve the petition of Bon Appetit Management Company, 893 West Street, License #002400115 for a Change of License from Marcy Calderoni to James G. Lachance Jr., as Manager.

Special Liquor Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve a Special All Alcohol License for Top of the Campus Inc. for receptions to be held December 4, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. in the Gordon Hall Atrium, UMass Amherst, December 9, 2014 from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. in the Integrated Learning Center 3rd Floor, UMass Amherst and December 11, 2014 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Fine Arts Center Atrium, UMass Amherst; Jennylyn Fontaine, TOC Board Member.

VOTED to approve a Special Wine and Malt License for Top of the Campus Inc for a reception to be held December 15, 2014 from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Isenberg School of Management Atrium, UMass Amherst; Jennylyn Fontaine, TOC Board Member.

VOTED unanimously to approve a Special All Alcohol License for Top of the Campus Inc. for a dinner to be held December 11, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. in the Commonwealth Honors College Events Hall, UMass Amherst, pending review and approval by the Chief of Police; Jennilyn Fontaine, Board Member.

Common Victualler Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve a Common Victualler License for PVP Holdings LLC d/b/a Fratelli's Ristorante, 30 Boltwood Walk, Unit #1, Monday through Sunday, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. daily; Joseph R. Bowman and Brian M. Covell, Owners/Managers

VOTED unanimously to approve a Common Victualler License for George's Ice Cream LLC d/b/a Bart's Ice Cream, 103 North Pleasant Street, Monday through Sunday, 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. daily, George Ejja, Manager.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Submitted by John P. Musante, Town Manager

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

Agenda

Draft Motions

Tax Classification Report

Human Rights Day Proclamation 2014

Personnel Board Memo with Recommendation

Station Road Property Memo

Slobody Exhibit A

Slobody Farm License Agreement

Starlight Farm Business Plan

DPW Memo on Watershed Land Project and Maps

EOEA Conservation Services Project Agreement and supporting Town Meeting votes

FY 16 Budget Policy Guidelines

Key Dates for 2015 ATM

PVTA Service Performance Update

Best in MA Excellence in Technology Award

Fall STM Recap to TMCC and Moderator

TM Goals –Final 12.01.14

2015 License for Approval 12.01.14

Fall STM recap for TMCC and Moderator

FY 16 Budget Policy Guidelines

TM Goals – Final 12.01.14

Change in Manager – Bon Appetit

Special All Alcohol Applications for UMass TOC Inc.12/4, 12/09, 12/11 (2) and 12/15

Common Victualler Application George's Ice Cream d/b/a Bart's Ice Cream

Common Victualler Application PVP Holding d/b/a Fratelli's Ristorante