

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order by Mr. Seppala at 5:34 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Seppala, Schiffer, Jolly, Awad, Hubley
Del Castilho, Maglione, Roberts, Markert, Burke, Scherpa, Sullivan, Kent, R. Lynch, Hoyle, Stromgren,
Gianetti

SELECT BOARD'S ACTION

Ballot Questions

VOTED: Seppala, Schiffer, Jolly voted "Aye", Awad, Hubley "No", to place the following levy limit override ballot questions on the March 30, 2004 Town ballot:

Shall the Town of Amherst be allowed to assess an additional \$2,000,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the Town's operating and capital expenses for the fiscal year beginning July first, two thousand and five.

Shall the Town of Amherst be allowed to assess an additional \$2,500,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the Town's operating and capital expenses for the fiscal year beginning July first, two thousand and five.

Consent Calendar

VOTED to approve the following items on the February 23, 2004 Consent Calendar:

Refer Zoning Request to Planning Board

VOTED unanimously to refer to the Planning Board the request from Amir Mikhchi and Fatemeh Giahito to rezone 126 South East Street from part Commercial (COM) and Part Neighborhood Residence (R-N) to Commercial (COM).

Proclamation – American Red Cross Month

VOTED unanimously to proclaim March 2004 as American Red Cross Month.

Change of Manager for Liquor License – VFW

VOTED unanimously to approve the change of manager for the V.F.W Post of U.S., Inc./Earl Sanders Post #754, 457 Main Street, from Valarie J. Spangler to Roy E. Rule.

Approve Minutes

VOTED unanimously to approve the Select Board minutes of February 9, 2004, as amended.

Conflict of Interest Exemption

VOTED: Seppala, Schiffer, Jolly, Hubley voted "Aye", Awad absent, to approve the conflict of interest exemption granted by the Town Manager to David Kastor, in his capacity as a member of the Amherst Planning Board, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 268A, s. 19 (b) (1), and the finding made therein that Mr. Kastor's interest in the particular matter to be heard by the Planning Board is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the town may expect from him.

Sidewalk Plowing Request

No action taken.

250th Anniversary Celebration Committee

VOTED unanimously to increase the 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee membership to 21 by adding four members-at-large.

Committee Appointments

VOTED unanimously to appoint Martha Nelson, University of Massachusetts Representative, to the 250th Anniversary Celebration Committee, for a term to expire June 30, 2006.

LICENSES AND PERMITS

Transfer and Pledge of Liquor License – Watroba’s Liquors, Inc.

VOTED unanimously to approve the transfer of an All Alcoholic Package Store License from Watroba’s Inc., d/b/a Watroba’s Liquors, (Manager: Matthew Corcoran), to Watroba’s Liquors, Inc., d/b/a Watroba’s Liquors, Inc., 81 Sunderland Road, (Manager: Matthew Corcoran) and further to approve the Pledge of License to Greenfield Savings Bank.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Question period

- Why did the Chair not bring forward the override vote earlier?
- Can the election hours be extended now?
- If you only learned about the need for an override two weeks ago, what have you been doing all year?
- Could sidewalks that have been plowed for 10 years continue to be plowed?
- Does an override have to specify the uses for the funds?
- What is the cost of an additional election?
- Have there been successful overrides in Amherst before Town Meeting?
- What kind of work has been done with the School Committee regarding federal grants?
- Is there a definition of what is included in a “needs” budget?

Joint Meeting

Discussed FY 05 budget process and Proposition 2 ½ override possibilities.

Town Manager’s Report

The Town Manager reported on Kendrick Park.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED unanimously to adjourn at 10:43 p.m.