

Amherst Finance Committee Minutes January 15, 2015

CALL TO ORDER: The Select Board meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. in the Town Room at Town Hall. The Finance Committee reached a quorum and the Finance Committee Meeting was officially called to order at 4:50 p.m.

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Janice Ratner, Doug Slaughter, Anurag Sharma, Marylou Theilman.

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Alisa Brewer, Aaron Hayden, Connie Kruger, Andy Steinberg, Jim Wald.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: John Musante, Town Manager; Sanford Pooler, Finance Director; David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Conservation & Development; Deborah Radway Director of Human Resources/Human Rights; Claire McGinnis, Treasurer/Collector; Rob Morra, Building Commissioner; Amherst Media.

AGENDA AND DISCUSSION

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1. Joint meeting of the Select Board and Finance Committee with the Town Manager and Finance Director to hear an overview of the FY16 Municipal Budget Proposal, with questions and answers.
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1. Presentation, questions and discussion of Town Manager's budget
Musante presented a broad overview of the FY16 municipal budget emphasizing the points made in his transmittal letter. Steinberg asked if the changes in structure of Public Health and Inspection Services would diminish our capacity to do the required work of the Board of Health. Musante responded that he thinks the reorganization strengthens our delivery of social and human services and although the inspections part of Public Health will be with the other inspection services there will be continued dialog and communication between Inspection Services and the Community Services Director. Kruger asked how the Human Services portion of the Community Development Block Grant will fit into the reorganization. Musante replied that the discussions are ongoing but that the opportunity of the Health Director, soon to be Community Services Director, to participate will increase. Brewer asked who the new Economic Development Director

will report to and with the Community Services reorganization to whom will the Senior Center Director, Veterans Services Director, etc. report. Musante stated that the Economic Development Director and the Community Services Director would report directly to him. The directors of the Community Service departments would report to the new Community Services Director, who has a coordinating role meant to strengthen team building, but that the Town Manager still has a role and responsibility with these staff. Hayden stated that while the budget has lots of numbers in it the narrative contains the details of what our Town government does, how it uses the funds and what the needs of the Town are.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Douglas Slaughter, acting clerk

DOCUMENTS USED AT THE MEETING

Town of Amherst FY16 Proposed Budget