

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

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

Absent: None

Staff: John Musante, Town Manager; David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager; Sandy Pooler, Finance Director; Ron Bohonowicz, Facilities Director; Guilford Mooring, Public Works Superintendent; Sharon Sherry, Library Director; Deborah Radway, Human Resource/Rights Director; Don MacKay, Assistant Fire Chief; Maria Geryk, Superintendent; Kim Stender, Community, Partnerships & Volunteers; and Carol Ross, Media & Climate Communications Specialist.

Other: Personnel Board Chair Tony Butterfield and member Ron Bell; Agricultural Commission Chair Bernard Brennan and member Rebecca Fricke; Amherst Farmers Market reps Jeremy Barker-Plotkin and Tammy Ryan; Amherst Media Director Jim Lescault.

Minutes

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

Public Comment

Amherst Media Director Jim Lescault discussed the cable renewal ascertainment process and timeline.

Liquor License – News Officers Directors Amherst Golf Club Inc.

Mr. Musante explained the need for them to update officers/directors for all Club licenses.

VOTED unanimously to approve the petition for transfer of ownership dated March 3, 2015 with new officer/directors as presented by Amherst Golf Club, ABCC License #00240030, 365 South Pleasant Street, Amherst; David P. Twohig, Manager.

Special Liquor Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Amherst Ballet for a special wine and malt liquor license for a fundraiser, to be held at the Amherst Unitarian Meetinghouse on April 11, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p. m.; Justyne Ogdahl, Treasurer.

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Jillian Smith for a special wine and malt liquor license for a birthday party to be held at the Eric Carle Museum on May 2, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

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 18, 2015 through November 21, 2015 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.

Common Victualler Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of the Town of Amherst d/b/a Cherry Hill Golf Course for a Common Victualler License to operate on the premises of 323 Montague Road, Amherst on Sunday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. daily; Barbara Bilz, Manager.

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of The Sub and Pizza of Amherst Inc. for a Common Victualler License to operate on the premises of 33 East Pleasant Street, Amherst on Sundays from 12:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m., Mondays through Wednesdays 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. and Thursdays through Saturdays 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 a.m.; Omar Barahona, Manager

North Station - Fuel Storage

Public Hearing Opened at 6:45 p.m. Assistant Fire Chief Don McKay provided details on the application which describes removal of a single wall steel underground storage tank and installation of a double wall fiberglass tank in its stead. Public Hearing Closed 6:48 p.m.

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of the Town of Amherst Fire Department to amend the fuel storage license for the North Station, 603 East Pleasant Street to include one underground tank with maximum storage capacity of 10,000 gallons of gasoline and one underground tank with maximum storage capacity of 5,000 gallons of diesel fuel.

Personnel Board Recommendation – FY 16 Cost of Living

Personnel Board Chair Tony Butterfield and member Ron Bell summarized the recommendation.

VOTED unanimously to authorize a 2% Cost of Living Increase for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015, and further to approve a one-time cash payment of up to 2%, not added to the base salary, for any non-union employee whose FY 15 current salary is greater than the top step of their same level on the FY 16 Non-Union Salary Schedule, so that all non-union employees receive the dollar value of 2% increase in regular wages in FY 16 over what they receive in regular wages in FY 15.

Minutes

VOTED unanimously to approve the minutes of February 23, 2015 and March 9, 2015, as amended.

Parking and Street Closure Requests – Extravaganja

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of the first six (6) metered parking spaces on the east side of South Pleasant Street going south from the intersection of Spring Street and eight (8) metered parking spaces originating at the fifth meter on the west side of Boltwood Avenue, moving south towards College Street from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 18, 2015 for the UMass Amherst Cannabis Reform Coalition's Extravaganja Festival.

League of Women Voters Book Sale

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of the first eight (8) metered parking spaces on the west side of Boltwood Avenue going south from the intersection of Spring Street on Friday, May 1, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. and Sunday May 3, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and further, eight (8) metered parking spaces on the west side of Boltwood Avenue originating at the fifth meter on the west side of Boltwood Avenue, moving south towards College Street from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for the League of Women Voters of Amherst Annual Book Sale.

Sustainability Festival

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of seventeen (17) metered parking spaces on the west side of Boltwood Avenue moving north beginning at the intersection of College Street from 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 25, 2015 for the Sustainability Festival.

MSBA Statement of Interest – Fort River School

Facilities Director Ron Bohonowicz explained the process and request, noting support of the School Committee.

VOTED unanimously to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated on or before April 10, 2015 for the Fort River Elementary School located at 70 South East Street, Amherst, MA which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future:

Priority 1: Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.

Priority 5: Replacement, renovation or modernization of the heating system in a schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the schoolhouse.

Priority 7: Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.

And, hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Amherst or the Amherst Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Amherst Together – Update on Progress and Future Goals

Carol Ross and Kim Stender summarized progress to date and plans for the year ahead.

Amherst Farmers Market

Mr. Steinberg summarized progress since the prior Select Board discussion, including a productive meeting with himself, Town staff, and representatives from the Amherst Farmers Market (AFM) and the Town's Agricultural Commission. He said a consensus was reached to allow successful participation by more Amherst area farmers at the market and thanked all the participants. AFM reps Jeremy Barker-Plotkin and Tammy Ryan and Agricultural Commission rep Bernard Brennan also described progress and encouraged the Select Board to approve AFM's request to operate the market his year in the Spring Street parking lot and an expanded area on a portion of Boltwood Avenue.

VOTED unanimously to approve the closure of that section of Spring Street beginning at the intersection of South Pleasant heading east to the intersection with Boltwood Avenue and that section of Boltwood Avenue beginning at the intersection of Spring Street heading south to the access way to Porter Hall for each Saturday beginning April 18, 2015 through November 21, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for the Amherst Farmers' Market, and further to approve the reservation of the first five metered parking spaces on the east side of South Pleasant Street originating at Spring Street, moving south towards College Street on each Saturday beginning April 25, 2015 to November 21, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the Amherst Farmers Market, and Saturday, April 18, 2015, the reservation of the first five metered parking spaces on the east side of South Pleasant Street between Spring Street and the Main Street Parking lot from 7:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., and further the Amherst Farmers Market will be managed in accordance with the revised Market Rules adopted by the Amherst Farmers Market Committee on March 10, 2015.

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of the first two (2) metered parking spaces on the east side of Boltwood Avenue, immediately south of the Porter Access driveway, exclusively for guests of the Lord Jeffery Inn each Saturday beginning April 18, 2015 to November 21, 2015 from 7:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Musante indicated that the extensive planning, preparation and collaboration with community stakeholders, as well as cooperation of the students and the efforts of police in promoting safe and responsible behavior throughout Amherst on March 7 was instrumental in the overall success. A more formal action meeting with university officials is planned.

An update was presented to the Select Board on the Affordable Housing Property Tax Incentive, meant to serve as a companion article to the inclusionary zoning bylaw amendments being proposed by the Planning Board. Finance Director Sandy Pooler's memo to the Planning Board was referenced. A Special Act requires that Town Meeting grant the Select Board authorization to file a home-rule petition. The Act would allow the opportunity for negotiation on a case by case basis to provide a temporary reduction of any increased value attributable to the construction of new housing. A term of up to ten years, with the relief decreasing in each subsequent year is included and will require annual recertification by the applicant.

Mr. Musante reported on several meetings he had attended. The Amherst BID Executive Committee meeting on March 4th regarding Downtown Gigabit and funding of a study on the costs of installing a fiber optic connection that would bring data in at one gigabit per second to the downtown. A UMass Reception for Senator Rosenberg on

March 20th and Senator Rosenberg's Annual Municipal Conference March 21st was also mentioned. On March 24 at 7 p.m. at the Bangs Community Center, Mr. Musante will be attending the third in a series of Downtown Parking Forums co-sponsored by the Select Board and Planning Board.

Ms. Kruger requested an update on a future agenda regarding Select Board compensation.

Voting & Assigning Select Board Positions on Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Library Director Sharon Sharry presented the recommended FY 16 Jones Library budget. An update on the proposed design/building project was also provided. Ms. Sharry reported on their research into the possibility of a merger with the Amherst Historical Society, which would allow greater public access to the Society's holdings and access to the physical land for the library expansion.

Finance Director Sandy Pooler reviewed the budget process and highlights. A recommendation from the Insurance Advisory Group for a 5% increase in PPO rates and a 3% reduction in HMO rates to better reflect benefit experience will effect savings. That added to savings from three recent inspector hires coming in lower than budgeted provides the ability to fully fund the new economic development director position. Mr. Pooler referenced his memo providing information on each financial article before the Select Board this evening.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 11 – FY 16 Operating Budget, General Government in the amount of \$6,483,937, Public Safety in the amount of \$9,943,955, Public Works in the amount of \$2,162,004, Conservation and Development in the amount of \$1,285,577, Community Services in the amount of \$1,724,276, Water Fund in the amount of \$3,731,688, Sewer Fund in the amount of \$3,857,510, Solid Waste Fund in the amount of \$474,298, Transportation Fund in the amount of \$716,751 and Debt Service in the amount of \$2,264,807, for a total amount of \$32,644,803; Mr. Steinberg to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Mr. Steinberg suggested the Board revisit which Select Board member would speak to articles after the election, to allow the newly elected member to participate in Town Meeting. Select Board members were reminded by the Chair that responsibility to speak to an article includes scribing the Select Board written report to Town Meeting on each.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 11 FY 16 Library Operating Budget, in the amount of \$2,411,805 with Town tax support of \$1,833,246; Mr. Steinberg to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Kruger) to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 9 – Revolving Fund Reauthorization; Ms. Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Kruger) to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 8 – OPEB Funding in the amount of \$200,000; Ms. Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 7 – Regional Lockup in the amount of \$35,928; Mr. Steinberg to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 6 – Retirement Assessment in the amount of \$4,528,702; Mr. Steinberg to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 5 – FY 15 Budget Amendments, Part A for a sum of money and Part B in the amount of \$265,497.76; Ms. Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 4 – Authorization for Compensating Balances; Ms. Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 3 – Optional Tax Exemptions; Ms. Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend dismissal to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 2 - Transfer of Funds - Unpaid Bills; Ms. Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 1 – Reports of Boards and Committees; the newest member of the Select Board to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Committee Charge

Ms. Brewer announced she had filed a disclosure in accordance with MGL c 268, noting her husband as President of the Amherst Media Board of Directors.

Mr. Musante reviewed the updated charge for the Cable Advisory Committee, noting that he is poised to make appointments in the coming week. He cited his optimism in completing the ascertainment process and subsequent negotiations, having hired one of the most prominent cable attorneys to represent the Town.

VOTED unanimously to approve the charge of the Cable Advisory Committee dated March 23, 2015, as amended and to grant Special Municipal Employee Status to the Cable Advisory Committee.

Committee Appointments

VOTED unanimously to confirm the Town Manager’s appointment of Janet Marquardt to the Historical Commission effective March 24, 2015 for a term to expire on June 30, 2017.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

The Select Board reviewed the schedule for review of town meeting articles. Ms. Kruger and Mr. Wald noted they will be absent for the April 13, 2015 meeting. The Select Board requested further work on the draft schedule to ensure all Select Board members are available for review of zoning articles.

The Select Board discussed request from petitioners regarding who is listed as petitioners on the warrant, an individual versus an organization. Select Board members agreed that it is an issue of transparency and clarity, knowing who is responsible for bringing an article forward.

VOTED unanimously to authorize the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, as presented, the document titled March 23, 2015 Draft.

Member Reports

The Chair noted the summary from the Budget Coordinating Group included in this evening’s packet.

Ms. Brewer reported on her attendance at the UMass reception for Senator Rosenberg and his annual Hampshire-Franklin Municipal Conference, suggesting those interested view the presentation on Open Meeting Law that opened the conference.

Chair’s Report

Mr. Hayden apologized for not having completed draft policies on public comment and sponsorship, promising to forward what he had compiled thus far. His calendar preview highlighted the third in a series of parking forums to be held tomorrow, March 24.

Mr. Musante and Select Board members thanked Mr. Hayden for his six and a half years of service on the Select Board, his final year as Chair. Mr. Hayden offered his appreciation to members and staff, as well, especially to all who took time to come out before the meeting this evening to bid him farewell.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 10:05 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

Draft April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Drafts A & B

Application for Amended License for Fuel Storage - 603 East Pleasant Street

Personnel Board Letter of Recommendation for FY COLA

MSBA Statement of Interest Fort River School

Amherst Together Update as of March 2015 and Project One Worksheet

Amherst Farmers Market Request for Reservation of Spring Street Lot and Map

Amherst Farmers Market Rules 2015

Agricultural Commission Letter of Support for Amherst Farmers Market

Finance Director Memo email and memo to Planning Board on Affordable Housing Tax Incentives

Finance Director Memo on background information on Articles for FY16 Warrant

Finance Director Memo on budget changes in General Government

Scheduling of Article Review for Select Board Meetings

Budget Coordinating Group Summary 3-6-2015

Amherst Golf Club Liquor License Application for New Officers

Cable Advisory Charge Revision Draft 03.23.2015

Extravaganja Parking Request and Map

League of Women Voters Parking Reservation Request and Map

Sustainability Festival Parking Request and Map 2015

Special Wine and Malt Applications Amherst Ballet April 11, 2015 and Eric Carle Museum May 2, 2015

Application by a Farmer Winery to Sell at a Farmers Market Mount Warner Vineyard LLC

Common Victualler Applications for The Sub and Pizza of Amherst, Inc. and Cherry Hill Golf Course

Draft Minutes February 23, 2015 and May 2, 2015