

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

Present: Alisa Brewer, Connie Kruger, Doug Slaughter, Andy Steinberg, Jim Wald

Absent: None

Staff: Peter Hechenbleikner, Temporary Town Manager; Co-Finance Director Claire McGinnis

Other: Gazette Report Scott Merzbach and Amherst Media staff

Meeting called to order by Ms. Brewer at 6:03 p.m.

On motion by Kruger, seconded by Slaughter, the Select Board voted to approve the appointment of John Hornik to the Amherst Affordable Housing Trust Committee expiring 6/30/18, Cynthia Banfield-Weir to the Agricultural Commission expiring 6/30/19, and Soval-Malis Loeung to the Human Rights Commission, all terms effective immediately through June 30, 2017 Housing.

The Temporary Town Manager briefly talked about the highlights of the quarterly financial report. Ms. Brewer thanked staff for separately identifying the meals tax and hotel occupancy tax. The Board asked that they be notified when the hotel occupancy payments by UMASS are made and that UMASS be acknowledged for making the payments.

The Town Manager noted that correspondence from the attorney for Panda East has been received that they will not be appealing their liquor license suspension. The Select Board asked that they receive a copy of the letter and the sign that will be posted on the premises, and that these documents be added to the Select Board meeting material posted tomorrow.

The Temporary Town Manager noted that we have received a letter of appreciation from Hampshire College acknowledging the support of staff in the development of the living building.

The Select Board discussed outstanding warrant articles where the Select Board did not take a position.

Article 43 is an article that would make Town meeting members subject to the same provisions of conflict of interest and state ethics laws as other employees and volunteer Board, Committee, and Commission members of the Town. Steinberg voiced opposition to this on the grounds that is cumbersome, and is not consistent with expediting Town Meeting sessions. On motion by Kruger, seconded by Slaughter, the Select Board voted unanimously to not recommend Article 43.

Article 36 This is the petitioned article banning the use of plastic bags. The petitioner did not appear before the Select Board when this was on their agenda. The Select Board wanted to know if the language was in the motion that would allow the Board of Health to shut down a business if they violated the bylaw. Additionally, the Select Board wanted to know if the Board of Health had taken a position. This will be on the Select Board agenda for 5-9-16.

Article 26 – The motion under this article will be ½% for art. A portion of this could be spent on administration. On motion by Wald, seconded by Kruger, the Select Board voted unanimously to support the article. The Board was pleased to see the flexibility exercised by the Public Arts Commission.

Article 38 – Doug Slaughter disclosed that he is an employee fo the School Department but does not have a conflict in speaking on or discussing this article. The Chair noted that information has been received from the School Department related to the petitioned article asking for further study of the Wildwood School and Fort River Schools. This will be

posted to the Board's web page. Ms. Brewer indicated that there are 3 reasons that she would recommend that the Board not recommend this article: 1) it would affect the deadline for the MSBA process for the proposed Wildwood School project, 2) it would create more work for the Town and Schools that is needless., and 3) there is a cost associated with this article, and while the information may be of interest, the cost of dealing with environmental issues at Fort River School could be extensive. On motion by Brewer, seconded by Slaughter, the Select Board voted unanimously to not recommend article 38. The Select Board also noted that a lot more outreach is going to need to be done on the proposed Wildwood School project.

Article 44 – This is a petitioned article expressing support for House bill 2584 which would allow local acceptance of provisions to enable local taxation of properties of non-profits. The Select Board had discussed it previously but not taken a position, although the Board had taken a position on the house bill. The Board supports the concept although there was some concern about the language of the article. On motion by Kruger, seconded by Slaughter, the Select Board voted unanimously to take no position on this article.

Chair Brewer indicated that they may cancel the Wednesday meeting if there is no pressing business.

On motion by Steinberg, seconded by Slaughter, the Select Board voted unanimously to adjourn their meeting at 6:57 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Submitted by Peter Hechenbleikner, Temporary Town Manager