

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

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

Absent: None

Staff: Interim Town Manager M. David Ziomek; Chief of Police Scott Livingstone and Human Resource Director Deborah Radway

Other: Residents Vincent O'Connor and Maurianne Adams

Meeting called to order by Ms. Brewer at 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Brewer explained the plans for the meeting agenda, noting each interview was to last one hour. Forms in the rear of the meeting were available for the public to provide their comments on each candidate.

Mark Rees was introduced as a candidate for a Temporary Town Manager, providing a brief statement of interest, noting 35 years of public service experience with a focus in finance, town gown and community development. Select Board members posed questions to Mr. Rees on various topics for approximately 45 minutes. Mr. Rees asked about the timeline planned for hiring, the budget process and perceived challenges, noting his interest in applying for the full-time position.

The meeting was recessed until 4:54 p.m.

Ms. Brewer introduced the second finalist candidate for the Temporary Town Manager position, Peter Hechenbleikner, again outlining the planned process. Mr. Hechenbleikner provided a brief introduction, noting his 44 years of service in local government, first as a planner and then in public administration, noting he had served as interim town administrators in several Massachusetts communities as well as a consultant on a variety of purposes. Select Board members asked the same questions that had been asked of the first candidate. Mr. Hechenbleikner noted he had seen the goals outlined for the permanent Town Manager and wondered what goals the members had been laid out for the temporary position. He also asked about the process planned for filing the permanent town manager and what if any time would be allowed for overlap with the exiting Finance Director. Mr. Hechenbleikner noted he was retired and therefore limited in the number of hours he could offer and also that he had no interest in applying for the permanent position.

The Select Board recessed briefly, returning to accept public comments on applicants, noting that they would be accepted via email and snail mail until a finalist was chosen.

Vince O'Connor, Precinct 1 and Town Meeting member spoke about the items a short-term manager might be able to tackle.

Maurianne Adams spoke about her perceptions of the two finalists, believing the first candidate had more familiarity with issues in Amherst, concrete observations in response to questions and the availability for full-time work.

Temporary Town Manager selection and next steps were reviewed. Members noted their preference for waiting to deliberate on a choice of temporary town manager until the next meeting allowing sufficient time for residents to submit written comments. It was noted reference checks will occur after selection. Ms. Brewer agreed to contact the communities in which the candidates have worked prior to selection to report back to the Board.

Ms. Brewer reviewed the process and documentation Ms. Radway had provided, including bids for firms to assist in the search for a permanent Town Manager. Members discussed their thoughts on the proposals and agreed to move forward with assistance on the entire process, but to also form a termed screening committee to assist with the process through finalist selection. Community Paradigm and MMA Consulting were recommended as finalists by the Human Resource Director Deborah Radway. Mr. Steinberg noted the Collins Center has done some work and has familiarity with the community as well. Slaughter agreed to work with Ms. Radway to complete further research on the proposals and to make a recommendation to the Select Board on both the services necessary and the finalist at their meeting on December 7, 2015.

Human Rights Day Proclamation Ms. Radway, speaking of her Human Rights Director responsibilities asked the Select Board to proclaim the 67th Anniversary of Human Rights Day for the Town of Amherst, noting the Human Rights Commission will be holding an event on the North Common at 6 p.m. that evening. Mr. Wald read the proclamation and Mr. Slaughter the motion. Ms. Kruger noted Ms. Eleanor Roosevelt's role in bringing this forward to the United Nations.

VOTED unanimously to proclaim Thursday, December 10, 2015 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.

Mr. Ziomek noted he had no formal Town Manager report for the Select Board this evening.

150th Anniversary of 13th Amendment and 36 Star Flag Raising

Ms. Brewer noted Mr. Jones had provided information for the Board on the event at their last meeting. Mr. Jones provided a packet of updated information, as well as a verbal update of the planned activities including a Civil War enactment group providing an honor guard. Mr. Jones proposed that Boltwood Avenue and the Main Street lot be closed for the event to allow seating in front of the Town Hall steps. It was noted such a request would be taken up at the next meeting to allow public safety staff to weigh in. After further discussion, it was agreed that if weather permitted, the event would be set up on the north common around the flag pole and in the case of inclement weather, the readings would be held in the Town Room and the attendees would move outside for the raising of the flag, all of which would negate the need for closure of either the street or parking lot. Mr. Jones will contact Amherst Media. The Town Room will be reserved for noon on the 18th of December and a news note will go on the website announcing the event. Mr. O'Connor offered comment, suggesting the two spaces in front of the Town Hall and the first few spaces in the parking lot be closed, as well as that part of Boltwood Avenue before the exit of the Town Hall lot to Main Street.

VOTED unanimously to proclaim December 18, 2015 as National Freedom Day in Amherst, to be celebrated in a ceremony at Town Hall on the same day.

Member Reports

Ms. Brewer provided a calendar preview. Saturday, December 5th at 9 a.m. is the Four Board Meeting; Monday, December 6, 2016 Select Board is holding the Tax Classification Hearing and on December 8, 2016 the public forum on the village center is planned.

Mr. Slaughter reported at a recent meeting of the PVTA an extension of the contract for the Director was voted. Additionally, the Mayor of Northampton was voted Chair of the Executive Board, a position Mr. Musante had held.

Mr. Steinberg urged all members to attend the upcoming four board, as he had heard a proposal will be forthcoming from Shutesbury regarding a change in assessment methodology. Mr. Wald noted the Amherst History Museum had completed the archeological study and explained the process and next steps.

Special Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of the Top of the Campus Inc. for an All Alcohol License on December 18, 2015 for service at a reception in the French Hall 209, UMass Amherst from 4:30 – 9:00 p.m.; Carolyn Nofio, Board Member.

New Taxi License

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Tracy Bryant for a new 2015 Taxi License on behalf of Mercedes Cab Company Inc.

Change Request for Sunday Hours – R & P Package Store Annual Alcohol Package Store License

Ms. Brewer provided information on the request, noting an amendment to the liquor laws allows opening at 10 a.m. on Sundays by right, however the licensee must provide notice to the Local Licensing Authority (LLA). The Select Board as the local licensing authority is required to acknowledge the change, but has no authority to deny such a request.

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Pratt's Inc. d/b/a R & P Package Store, License #002400050 pursuant to MGL c. 138, §15, for a change in hours, permitting the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sundays beginning at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Submitted by M. David Ziomek, Interim Town Manager

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

11-30-2016 Final Agenda and Draft Motions

Temporary Town Manager Finalist Interview Process for November 30, 2016

Mark Rees Resume 2015

Peter Hechenbleikner Resume 2015

150th Anniversary of the Thirteenth Amendment

Collins Center Scope of Services for Town Manager Search

Community Paradigm Proposal for Town Manager Recruitment

MMA Consulting Group Inc. Proposal for Town Manager Recruitment and Search

MRI Recruitment Services Approach and Process

Human Rights Day Proclamation 2015

13th Amendment Proclamation

Proposal for the Commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of the 13th Amendment

ABCC Advisory Section 15 Off-Premises Retail Licensees Sunday Opening Time allowed at 10 a.m.

Application for Change of Sunday Hours Pratts Inc. d/b/a R & P Package Store

Current License for Pratts Inc. d/b/a R & P Package Store 2015

Liquor License Quota Report as of November 30, 2015

Taxi Driver Application T. Bryant on behalf of Mercedes Cab Co. d/b/a Funky Cab

Special All Alcohol License for UMass Amherst at the French Hall 209 December 18, 2015