

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

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

Absent: None

Staff: Peter Hechenbleikner, Temporary Town Manager, David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager, Deborah Radway, Human Resource Director and Treasurer Collector/Co-Finance Director Claire McGinnis

Other: Bernard Lynch, Principal at Community Paradigm Associates LLC; Finalist Maria E. Capriola

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Mr. Lynch introduced Ms. Capriola to the Select Board. The schedule for the day was reviewed to include a Tour of the Town with Assistant Town Manager M. David Ziomek from 9:30 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. including the APD, AFD, Jones Library, Bangs Center, DPW, Schools and LSSE, University & Colleges, village centers of South Amherst and North Amherst. Lunch in downtown with four senior staff: Human Resources/Human Rights, Assistant to the Town Manager, Treasurer/Collector, Building Commissioner, followed by a walking tour of downtown with Economic Development Director and Planning Director, and a Planning Board member with a brief visit with Chamber and BID representatives. A community Q & A to be facilitated by Mr. Lynch in Town Room will run from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. before returning to the formal interview at 6:00 p.m. Members spoke with Ms. Capriola in an informal setting. The meeting recessed to return for the formal interview at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting reconvened by Ms. Brewer at 6:05 p.m. Ms. Brewer reviewed the process to occur and introduced Ms. Capriola.

The candidate was asked to review her perceptions after the day's visit. Ms. Capriola indicated she was very impressed with the team members she met today and that the community has a lot to offer. Challenges appear to be aging infrastructure and need for capital funding. She spoke about the Town-Gown relationship, especially the conversation of single family homes to student housing.

The Select Board members alternated interview questions, which had been assigned in advance for approximately two hours. The questions are listed online as is a video of the interview at Amherst Media.

Temporary Town Manager Peter Hechenbleikner and Treasurer Collector Claire McGinnis presented a short-term note in the amount of \$789,500 for purposes authorized by Town Meeting on May 5 and 7, 2014, May 6, 2015 and November 2, 2015, which included Wildwood Elementary School feasibility study, \$277,000; two mowers and a loader for the DPW, \$202,500; dispatch communications equipment, \$110,000; and repair and improvement to the Amity Street parking lot, \$200,000. The Note was signed by the Select Board.

Ms. Brewer requested clarification on process, specifically where we are at in terms of a group in our research of the finalists. Mr. Lynch will be requested to outline the nature of what had been accomplished in terms of background checks, what was performed, not the results of such.

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

Submitted by Peter Hechenbleikner, Temporary Town Manager

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting – Available in the Outline Packet for the Meeting Date
Agenda, Maria Capriola Letter of Interest, Resume and Writing Sample
Cover Memo for short-term Note from Treasurer