

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

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

Staff: Peter Hechenbleikner, Temporary Town Manager; David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager; and Deborah Radway, Human Resource Director.

Absent: None

Other: Bernard Lynch, Principal at Community Paradigm Associates LLC; Finalist Paul Bockelman

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

Mr. Lynch introduced Mr. Bockelman 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 Mr. Bockelman 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, indicating the schedule for the day was available online. No other business is to be discussed this evening other than the Town Manager interview. No public comment will be permitted. Comments are being accepted to Selectboard@amherstma.gov no later than Friday, April 29th. Paul Bockelman was introduced.

The candidate was asked to review his perceptions after the day's visit. Mr. Bockelman thanked everyone for inviting him and to those for taking time out of their day for his visit. He noted he had anticipated strong staff in Amherst and was pleased that his beliefs were confirmed. A tour of Town buildings provided evidence of the need for the new buildings being considered, but how to pay for them is another story. The downtown tour showed him a much changed downtown from when he went here in college, from a location where people go to shop to a place where people seek out culture and food. It appears the Town has done a good job protecting land, vistas and open space.

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

Ms. Brewer reminded everyone that anyone wanting to submit comments should do so by the Friday deadline. Select Board will meet prior to the Annual Town Meeting which begins on Monday and continues on Wednesday; Select Board has a meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2016 at Town Hall at which the Board will deliberate on a choice for Town Manager.

Ms. Kruger invited members to her home for an informal gathering on a Tuesday in early June, including office staff and Mr. Hechenbleikner.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Submitted by Alisa Brewer, Chair

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting – Available in the Outline Packet for the Meeting Date
Agenda, Paul Bockelman Letter of Interest, Resume and Writing Sample