

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

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

Absent: None

Staff: Peter Hechenbleikner, Temporary Town Manager; Deborah Radway, HR Director

Other: Diane Lederman; Scott Merzbach, Larry Kelly

Meeting called to order by Ms. Brewer at 5:08 p.m.

Executive Session

On motion by Brewer, seconded by Steinberg, the Select Board voted to enter into Executive Session, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 30A, section 21, part a, subset 2 to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel (Town Manager finalist), and to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Town Manager finalist), and to approve Executive Session minutes, with the intent to return to public session at the conclusion. VOTE by ROLL CALL VOTE: Y Brewer, Y Kruger, Y Slaughter, Y Steinberg, Y Wald

The Select Board returned to open session at 5:37 p.m.

Sign Town Manager Contract

On motion by Steinberg, seconded by Slaughter, the Select Board unanimously voted to enter into an employment agreement in accordance with Chapter 216 of the Acts of 2001, the Charter of the Town of Amherst ("Charter") and Chapter 41, Section 108N of the Massachusetts General Laws with Paul Bockelman to serve as Town Manager of the Town of Amherst for a 3 year term commencing August 22, 2016. Select Board Chair Alisa Brewer read a press release dated June 1, 2016 announcing Mr. Bockelman's hiring.

Topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours before the meeting

The Select Board reviewed an email from Vira Douangmany Cage relative to the Superintendent of School's statement about a "stay away" order for a parent at the Pelham School. Select Board members had many concerns about the email including:

- It does not appear that the subject referenced is a Town of Amherst matter;
- It appears that the matter in question involves another elected board of the Town, not the Select Board;
- Silence in this instance does not imply insensitivity to the issue raised;
- The Select Board is not privy to any confidential information related to this matter;
- The implication of the email is that the Select Board knows the details of the matter, and this is not the case;
- There are legal/privacy issues in the matter referenced; and,
- The Board does not accept the premise of the Select Board's silence in this matter implying anything about the matter.

The Select Board would like this matter to be added to the next agenda and asked the Temporary Town Manager to draft a response for the Select Board's consideration. The Temporary Town Manager indicated that he did not feel that there was an injustice in this matter, and that he would certainly address it if he felt there were.

At 5:59 p.m. on motion by Brewer, seconded by Steinberg, the Select Board voted to enter into Executive Session, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law (MGL) Chapter 30A, section 21, to approve Executive Session minutes, with the intent to not return to public session at the conclusion.

VOTE by ROLL CALL VOTE: Y Brewer, Y Kruger, Y Slaughter, Y Steinberg, Y Wald

Submitted by

Peter Hechenbleikner,
Temporary Town Manager

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

Final Agenda and Draft Motions

Employment Agreement Bockelman 8/22/2016 to 8/21/2019; Press Release Bockelman 6th Town Manager

Vera Douangmany Gage Email Forward: Parent Stay-away order by Police, Supt of Schools Geryk