

**Town of Amherst**  
**Minutes of the Select Board**

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May 3, 2017 - 6:00 p.m. - Amherst Regional Middle School, Band Room

Members present: Alisa Brewer, Connie Kruger, Doug Slaughter, Andy Steinberg, Jim Wald  
Staff present: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich  
Others present:  
Press present: Scott Merzbach, Daily Hampshire Gazette

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Meeting called to order by Ms. Brewer at 6:04 p.m.

Ms. Brewer reviewed the agenda, noting no public comment would be accepted. It was noted the Third Quarter Budget Update would be delayed until Monday, May 8, 2017.

***Take Positions on Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles***

Article 21: Ms. Aldrich, Comptroller provided a brief overview of Article 21 Free Cash and Article 22 Stabilization, which are used to balance the budget at the conclusion of consideration of money articles. The Finance Committee will make a motion under Article 21 to transfer \$60,000 from free cash to fund the transfer of that amount to the Community Services budget which was passed under Article 9. Mr. Steinberg suggested that the Finance Committee may want to consider funding the item from the Stabilization Fund as Mr. Pooler had recommended in the past to remind Town Meeting of the seriousness of action on votes such as these. Mr. Steinberg noted his willingness to support whatever action was deemed recommended by the Finance Committee.

Mr. Steinberg moved to recommend the action of the Finance Committee on Article 21 – Free Cash relative to transferring \$60,000 to Community Services to balance the budget. Mr. Slaughter seconded the motion and it passed 4-0-1 with Mr. Wald absent.

At this point, Mr. Wald entered the meeting.

Article 22: Mr. Steinberg moved to recommend the action of the Finance Committee on Article 22 – Stabilization. Mr. Slaughter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Article 35: Ms. Brewer reviewed a memorandum from Nathaniel Malloy relative to the action of the Housing Trust Committee to support Article 35 – Zoning Apartment Bedroom Mix.

Ms. Kruger moved to recommend to the April 26, 2017 Annual Town Meeting Article 35 – Zoning – Apartment Bedroom Mix with Ms. Kruger to speak. Mr. Wald seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Article 37: Mr. Bockelman reported Town Counsel had rendered an opinion relative to concerns about the legality of Article 37 Petition for a Special Act, indicating that the Town could not file

the Act as it is written because it requires the Housing Authority to commit an illegal act. The Housing Trust Committee indicated the desire to review the concept and has recommended the Article be referred to that body for review. Members voiced concern with illegality and the path the petitioner chose to take relative to the Article, noting that it is not worthy of further consideration by the Trust Committee.

Ms. Kruger moved to not recommend to the April 26, 2017 Annual Town Meeting Article 37 – Petition Special Act to Establish Low-Income Property Tax Credit; Ms. Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board. Mr. Wald seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Articles 14 and 15: Ms. Brewer reported her intent related to Capital Program Articles 14 and 15 to request consideration of Article 15 prior to Article 14, so that school related items be grouped together for cohesion. Concern was noted relative to movement of so many articles to a date certain, which may add to the confusion of the membership.

Ms. Brewer noted receipt of a petition from Town Meeting member Mary Wentworth relative to opposition to Thursday evening sessions. There was acknowledgement that a Thursday would be valuable if the body was close to completion of the warrant.

The Select Board summer meeting schedule with members vacation dates reflected was distributed for further discussion at a future meeting. It was noted that if Town Meeting adjourns to Monday May 8, 2017 the Thursday Select Board meeting would be cancelled. Ms. Brewer noted that the annual reorganization of officers was scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2017.

It was reported that committees are asking for direction from the Board on the reappointment process specifically regarding the term limit that was previously applied. Ms. Kruger recommended that the sister city committees be notified of the Board's intent to bring forward an article at the Fall Town Meeting to reduce the membership from fifteen to nine members. She further recommended that the Select Board consider one-year exemptions for specific committees who have the need of a specific discipline. The item will be scheduled for the May 8, 2017 agenda.

Mr. Steinberg moved to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. Mr. Slaughter seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Submitted by Paul Bockelman, Town Manager

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

05-03-2017 Agenda

05-03-2017 Draft Motions

FY 2017 Third Quarter YTD Budget Report

Special All Alcohol License UMass June 9, 2017

Affordable Housing Trust Committee Memo to Town Meeting Recommendations on Articles 12, 35 and 37