

Town of Amherst
Minutes of the Select Board

May 8, 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; Sonia Aldrich, Comptroller
Others present: None
Press present: Scott Merzbach, Daily Hampshire Gazette

The meeting called to order by Ms. Brewer at 6:01 p.m.

Third Quarter Budget Update

Comptroller Sonia Aldrich provided an overview of the Fiscal 2017 Budget third quarter report for the period ending March 31, 2017. Ms. Aldrich noted that variances from the revenues and expenditures were generally anticipated are usually related to the timing of receipts or expenditures. The exceptions were fines and forfeits and the Cherry Hill Golf Course. Fines and forfeits are trending down due to a change in police policy and a reduction in the amount of fines levied by the Court. Cherry Hill Golf Course revenues are declining due to decrease in memberships, use, and hotter than average seasonal temperatures last summer. The vacancy in the Finance Director position will provide available revenue for transfers that will assist in covering expenditures produced by an unanticipated Special Election in March. Snow and Ice deficits are anticipated to be approximately \$215,000.

Town Meeting: New Information

Mr. Bockelman provided an overview of an opinion letter received from Town Counsel on the legality of Petition Article 37 which requests a special act related to affordable housing tenancy. The requirement for the property owner to share information on the occupant's income with the Assessors' office is not allowable by law. Neither the Housing Trust nor the Housing and Sheltering Committee were aware of the unlawfulness at the time they voted to refer the article. Members agreed without further vote that the information did not change the vote previously taken by the Select Board to not recommend the article.

Ms. Brewer brought forward a flyer directed to Amherst Town Meeting members related to Article 23, which appears to have come from the library. It was agreed no further discussion on the part of the Select Board was necessary. Ms. Kruger is speaking to this Article on behalf of the Select Board and requested members contact her if they had specific information they would like her to include in her presentation.

Licenses

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the application of Top of the Campus Inc. for a Special Wine and Malt License to serve on the premises of the Museum of Contemporary Art, UMass Amherst on Thursday, May 25, 2017 for a reception from 5:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.; Jennylyn Fontaine, Board Member.

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, the Board voted unanimously approve the application of Top of the Campus, Inc., for a Special All Alcohol License to serve on the premises of the Hampshire Dining Commons, UMass Amherst on Friday, June 9, 2017 for a reception from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., Jennylyn Fontaine, Board Member.

On a motion by Mr. Slaughter, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the applications of R & P Liquors for two Special Wine and Malt Licenses to serve on the premises of the Robert Crown Center, Hampshire College on Friday, August 11, 2017 and Saturday, August 12, 2017 for conference cocktail parties from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.; Nathan Day, Owner/Manager.

Post-election Reorganization Vote: Chair, Vice-Chair, and Clerk

Ms. Brewer reminded Board members that she had previously announced that she is not seeking to serve as Chair for another term. She then turned the chair over to the Town Manager for Post-Election Reorganization.

Mr. Bockelman asked if there were any nominations for Chair. Mr. Steinberg moved to nominate Douglas Slaughter as Chair of the Select Board for a term to be effective on June 1, 2017. Ms. Kruger seconded the nomination. Mr. Bockelman asked if there were any further nominations for Chair. There being none, on a motion by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Ms. Kruger, the Select Board voted unanimously to close nominations for Chair. Mr. Bockelman noted the motion before the Select Board was the single nomination. The Select Board voted unanimously to elect Doug Slaughter as Chair for a term to be effective on June 1, 2017.

Ms. Brewer brought forth discussion on the position of Vice Chair. On a motion by Ms. Kruger, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, the Select Board voted unanimously to continue the current practice of rotating Vice Chair position monthly. Ms. Kruger is serving as the Vice Chair for May.

On a motion by Ms. Kruger, seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Select Board voted unanimously to appoint Andrew Steinberg as Clerk of the Select Board if he is willing to continue to serve in that stead. Mr. Steinberg graciously accepted the nomination. Ms. Brewer thanked him for serving in this role.

Annual Board/Committee Appointment Process

Ms. Kruger spoke about the committee and board appointment process, providing committee charges for Board of Health, Kanegasaki and La Paz Sister City Committees, Disability Access Committee and Water Supply Protection Committee. Membership of the sister city committees was discussed, citing the difficulty in obtaining fifteen individuals to serve. It was suggested the Board initiate a conversation with membership of these two committees with the intent to come back at the fall town meeting with a recommended change in membership to seven members. It was noted that there are many ways to promote the objectives of the two committees without formally being a member.

Review of the charges also brought forth discussion on the need to update to the current format. Ms. Kruger provided sample letters which will be sent out to individuals regarding interest in reappointment and to thank those who had served the maximum six years. Ms. Kruger noted she was looking for direction in regarding to discussion that exceptions be made for committees that require specific technical skills, i.e. the Water Supply Protection Committee, or requisites for a

physician on the Board of Health or the special population served for the Disability Access Advisory Committee. Members cited reasoning for opposition for exemptions. Members suggested the Board adopt specific criteria for applying exemptions for individual needs, such as in the case of the Agricultural Commission that has issues meeting the requirement for individuals engaged in farming.

Select Board meeting schedule will be on the next agenda; Board members were reminded to bring their calendars.

On a motion by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Ms. Kruger the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 6:54 p.m.

Submitted by:

Paul Bockelman
Town Manager

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

05-08-2017 Agenda

05-08-2017 Draft Motions

FY 2017 Third Quarter YTD Budget Report

Legal Opinion on Art 37 Petition for Special Act to Establish Low Income Property Tax Credit Charges: Board of Health; Kanegasaki SCC; La Paz Centro SCC; & Water Supply Protection Reorganization of Select Board Policy and Process

Reappointment and Thank you Letter Samples

Special All Alcohol 06/09/17 and Wine & Malt 05/25/17 Special License Applications UMass

Special Wine & Malt 08/11 & 8/12/17 Hampshire College Robert Crown Center