

Town of Amherst
Minutes of the Select Board

August 21, 2017 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Room, Town Hall

Members present: Chair Douglas Slaughter; Alisa Brewer, Connie Kruger
Members absent: Andy Steinberg, Jim Wald
Staff present: Town Manager Paul Bockelman
Other present: Cynthia Brubecker, Scott Merzbach

Meeting called to order by Mr. Slaughter at 6:30 p.m.

Proclamation

Ms. Kruger introduced Cynthia Brubaker, representing the League of Women Voters of Amherst. Ms. Brubaker made a brief statement about their recognition of need in the community and their work in tandem with the Amherst Survival Center, Food Bank of Western MA, Amherst Health Department and the Interfaith Opportunities Network in addressing the needs of the community. Ms. Brubaker read a Proclamation proclaiming September as Hunger Action Month. On a motion by Ms. Kruger, seconded by Ms. Brewer the Board voted unanimously to proclaim September 2017 as Hunger Action Month.

Licenses

On a motion by Ms. Brewer seconded by Ms. Kruger, the Board voted unanimously to approve the application of Top of the Campus Inc. for a Special License to serve wine and malt beverages at a reception to be held at UMass Amherst in Room E470 of South College on August 29, 2017 from 2:30 – 6:00 p.m.; Kimberly McAllister, Director.

Ms. Brewer wanted to verify that the Chief of Police is provided information on a change of hours. On a motion by Ms. Kruger, seconded by Ms. Brewer, the Board voted unanimously to approve a change in hours for the Secondhand Sales License of Robert L. Chestnut d/b/a Catch my Thrift, 11 East Pleasant Street, from Thursday to Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to Monday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and Sundays 12 to 5 p.m.; Robert L. Chestnut, Owner.

Town Manager Evaluation

Mr. Slaughter noted the revised draft composite of the Town Manager's evaluation was on members' desks this evening. Members thanked the Chair for his work on this time-consuming document. On a motion by Ms. Kruger, seconded by Ms. Brewer the Board voted unanimously to accept the FY 17 Performance Evaluation dated August 21, 2017 as amended.

Mr. Slaughter asked if there were further comments to be added to the draft FY 18 Goals. Members discussed need for clarification to ensure coordination between the School Committee and Town officials' on the Fort River building project, especially in regard to other capital projects. The need to capture the situation surrounding the Charter process, which may require the Town Manager to serve as a resource, and may prevent action on other goals was noted. The value of prioritizing goals within each section as well as those goals that should be refined or removed was briefly discussed. There was also a suggestion to hold more than a midyear check-in, perhaps more informally in mid-November and again in January, to receive feedback as the year progresses. The Chair discussed next steps in bringing goals to conclusion for the meeting of September 21, 2017.

Member Reports

Ms. Kruger reported on upcoming meetings for Downtown Parking Working Group and her attendance at the solar eclipse viewing held at UMass.

Ms. Brewer noted the marijuana working group continues to work diligently, putting time into all possible options that may be necessary to bring forth for the Fall Special Town Meeting. Ms. Brewer noted she was recently appointed to one of the working groups by the State Treasurer's Task Force on alcohol policies.

Mr. Slaughter noted that in the packet this evening was the Affordable Housing Trust Strategic Plan, which articulated the initial steps the Trust will look to execute. Mr. Slaughter reported that the PVTA has provided notice of the changes in service that were voted, which will be publicized within the affected communities.

Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager:

- Thanked the University of Massachusetts for its assistance on the Fourth of July event;
- Announced the next Coffee with the Town Manager would be August 25th at Kelly's Restaurant with the Fire Chief;
- Reported that he held a successful team building event, bringing together staff from the school and Town;
- Prepared for the return of students with all department heads;
- Updated on the Triangle Street roundabout construction and the Amherst Woods sewer project;
- Attended the BID Forum and Chamber meeting;
- Reported on the building department's initiative to educate/enforce signage regulations;
- Reported on the progress of PEG contract negotiations;
- Reported that the Beacon Communities application for housing tax credits was not successful in their bid for State funding for their affordable housing project and are examining options;
- Reported that the DPW and Fire Station Advisory Committee had decided they will not pursue funding at the Fall Town Meeting, choosing to instead provide greater awareness and return to Town Meeting in the spring;
- Reported that a formal presentation on the state of the Health Insurance Trust is planned for the September 11th Board meeting;
- Attended the Council of Aging Long Range planning committee meeting on the need for a new senior center;
- Renewed contracts with the Police Chief and Fire Chief, each for three year terms;
- Attended the farewell event for Linda Chalfant and noted the retirement of Jonathan Tucker; and,
- Reviewed upcoming events calendar and topics for future meeting.

Mr. Bockelman was congratulated on achieving his one year anniversary with the Town.

At 8:12 p.m., Mr. Slaughter moved to enter into Executive Session in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, section 21, part a, subset 2 to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel, Town Manager Paul Bockelman, with the intent not to reconvene in open session at the conclusion. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kruger and passed unanimously on a roll call vote with Mr. Slaughter, Ms. Brewer and Ms. Kruger voting in favor.

Submitted by Paul Bockelman, Town Manager

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

Agenda and Draft Motions

Amherst Municipal Housing Trust Letter and Strategic Plan

FY 17 Town Manager Performance Evaluation Memorandum

Proclamation of September 2017 as Hunger Action Month

Special Wine & Malt UMass August 29 2017

Secondhand Sales License Catch My Thrift 11 East Pleasant St