



**Town of Amherst
Town Council Meeting
Saturday, December 8, 2018 9:00 a.m.
Amherst-Pelham Regional Middle School Library
170 Chestnut Street**

Minutes

Call to order and declaration of a quorum

President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Councilors Present: Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, DuMont, Griesemer, Pam, Ross, Schoen, Steinberg.

Councilors absent: Councilors De Angelis, Hanneke, Ryan, Schreiber, Swartz

Councilors participating remotely: none

Others present: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich

Four Towns Meeting

Eric Nakajima, chair of the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District welcomed elected and appointed members from the four towns that comprise the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District: Amherst, Leverett, Pelham, and Shutesbury. He noted that each of the committees present had called their respective meetings to order.

Mr. Nakajima thanked the four towns for their continued support for the highest quality education being offered by the Regional School District.

Superintendent of Schools Michael Morris and School Finance Director Sean Mangano presented information on the Regional School District that included a review of FY19 to date, a vision of the School District, FY20 Budget Projections for both expenses and revenues, and FY20 Assessment Method Options.

After the presentation, the four communities broke-out into small groups organized by community.

The Town of Amherst grouping included all members of the Town Council who were present plus the Town Manager and Comptroller. At a prior Town Council meeting, Mr. Steinberg had been designated

the spokesperson for the Town of Amherst. After discussion in the small group, there was consensus that the Town of Amherst was fully committed to the regional schools and was appreciative of the quality education being offered in both the Middle and High Schools. The Town's position should be to hold the Town's contribution to the Regional School District to 2.5% with the goals being that the Regional School District not have significant cuts to its budget and that each of the four communities was protected financially. It was agreed that a working group should gather outside of the Four Towns Meeting to determine the best methodology to achieve these goals.

The four communities gathered back together and Mr. Steinberg summarized the discussion from the Town of Amherst small group.

The three other towns shared their feedback.

No actions were taken.

Mr. Mangano then presented the District's FY20 Capital Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Bockelman, Town Manager

Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented

- Amherst Pelham Regional School District – Four Town Meeting – December 8, 2018
PowerPoint Presentation