



**Town of Amherst
Town Council Meeting
(Part of the Four Towns Meeting)
Saturday, March 2, 2019 – 9:00 a.m.
Cafeteria, Amherst-Pelham Regional High School
21 Matoon Street**

Minutes

1. Call to order and declaration of a quorum

President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:28 a.m. [Note: the Four Towns Meeting started at 9:00 a.m. without the presence of a quorum of the Town Council.]

Councilors present: Councilors Brewer, Griesemer, Pam, Ross, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz.

Councilors absent: Councilors Bahl-Milne, DeAngelis, DuMont, Hanneke, Ryan, Schoen.

Councilors participating remotely: None

Others present: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Comptroller Sonia Aldrich, Assistant Town Manager David Ziomek; representatives from the Amherst-Pelham Regional School Committee, Amherst School Committee, and three other Towns (Leverett, Pelham, Shutesbury)

2. Presentations and Discussion

- **Presentation on School Finance**

Superintendent Morris welcomed the representatives from the four communities and presented an overview and status of the regional school district assessment method. School Finance Director Sean Mangano presented information on the proposed budget, capital and debt, and options for the assessment method.

The four towns separated into individual Town caucuses. Members representing the Town of Amherst discussed the presentation and agreed that the Town should be seeking an assessment option that was fair, predictable, and provided adequate financing to the regional school district. The group agreed that Option A met these criteria. The group decided that Option B was acceptable but did not provide the predictability that Option A provided.

After further discussion, all four communities agreed that Option A was the preferred option and encouraged the Regional School Committee to give that option the most serious consideration.

Several in attendance encourage those assembled to seek assistance from the State government in addressing the financial condition of regional school districts.

3. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the President 48 Hours in Advance - None

4. Adjourn

MOVED: Councilor Griesemer moved, second by Councilor Steinberg to adjourn.

VOTED unanimously to adjourn at 10:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Bockelman

Town Manager

Attachment: Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented

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