



**Town of Amherst
Town Council Meeting
Monday, March 4, 2019
5:30 p.m. – Tour of John P. Musante Health Center Tour
6:30 p.m. – Call to Order
Town Room, Town Hall
4 Boltwood Avenue**

Minutes

Complete video is available online: <https://amherstmedia.org/content/amherst-town-council-3419>

1. Call to order and declaration of a quorum

President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Councilors present: Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, DeAngelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz.

Councilors absent: None

Councilors participating remotely: None

Others present: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Clerk of the Council Margaret Nartowicz

President Griesemer announced audio and video recording by Amherst Media.

2. Announcements

Massachusetts School Building Authority Statement of Interest Application Listening Sessions:

Wednesday, March 6, 4-6 p.m., Crocker Farm Elementary

Wednesday, March 6, 7-9 p.m., Amherst Regional High School Library

Alternate Snow Date Only-Thursday, March 7, 4:15-6 p.m.; 6:30-8 p.m., ARHS Library

Public Forum on Proposed Town Budget:

Thursday, March 7, 6:30 p.m., Amherst Regional Middle School Auditorium

President Griesemer thanked the Police, Fire, DPW, Water, and IT departments for their responsiveness to issues that arose over the weekend.

President Griesemer announced that some agenda items will be taken out of order.

Town Manager Paul Bockelman introduced the Residents Advisory Committee: Connie Kruger, Jim Pistrang, and Keisha Dennis. Ms. Kruger and Mr. Pistrang made brief comments; Ms. Dennis was not in attendance.

Agenda item 9. a) Tibet Day Proclamation

Thondup Tsering, president of the Regional Tibetan Association of Massachusetts, spoke to the proclamation. The presenters noted there will be a flag-raising ceremony and symbolic walk from Amherst to Northampton on March 10, 2019 to commemorate the Tibetan national uprising, and they called on the Town Council and the public to support the peaceful resolution of the issue of Tibet.

Councilor Brewer noted a formatting error on the Proclamation and thanked the presenters.

MOTION: Councilor De Angelis moved, second by Councilor Pam, to adopt the Tibet Day 2019 Proclamation as amended.

VOTED 12-0-1 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, DeAngelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz voted Yes; Councilor Hanneke Abstained) to adopt the Tibet Day 2019 Proclamation as amended.

Agenda item 9. b) Resolution in Support of Changing the Commonwealth Flag and Seal of Massachusetts, as presented.

Elaine Kenseth, an Amherst resident, and David Detmold, a Montague resident, spoke to the resolution, and asked for the Town Council's adoption of the resolution, and support of HD.2968 and SD.1495, "a Resolve Providing for the Creation of a Special Commission Relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth."

Councilor Hanneke noted a spelling error in the proposed resolution.

Councilor Brewer asked if councilors felt that this was an appropriate action for the Town Council.

Councilors De Angelis and DuMont spoke in favor of the resolution.

Councilor Ryan commented that he has not heard from enough of his constituents to vote in favor of the resolution.

MOTION: Councilor Pam moved, second by Councilor Bahl-Milne, to adopt the Resolution in Support of Changing the Commonwealth Flag and Seal of Massachusetts, as amended.

VOTED 10-0-3 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, DeAngelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Pam, Ross, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, and Swartz voted Yes, Councilors Brewer, Hanneke, and Ryan Abstained) to adopt the Resolution in Support of Changing the Commonwealth Flag and Seal of Massachusetts, as amended.

Agenda item 9. c) Resolution in Support of First Congregational Church in Amherst, United Church of Christ, Request to Maintain a Temporary Shelter

Reverend Vicki Kemper spoke to the resolution; Reverend Kemper explained that the State has classified the church as a permanent shelter, which requires the church to make significant modifications to the building to bring it to compliance as a permanent shelter. The Church does not intend to become a permanent shelter, and is therefore asking the Town Council to support the resolution, which is a request to remain a temporary shelter.

Town Manager Paul Bockelman spoke about the Town's previous and ongoing support of the variance as a temporary shelter, and explained that in the view of the Town, the Church complies with all health and safety regulations as a temporary shelter.

State Representative Mindy Domb spoke in favor of the resolution.

Councilor Steinberg commented about the Select Board's previous actions regarding the temporary shelter, and spoke in favor of the resolution.

Councilor De Angelis spoke in favor of the resolution, and applauded the work of the Church and Reverend Kemper.

MOTION: Councilor Steinberg moved, second by Councilor De Angelis, to adopt the Resolution in Support of the First Congregational Church in Amherst, United Church of Christ, Request to Maintain a Temporary Shelter, as presented.

VOTED unanimously to adopt the Resolution in Support of the First Congregational Church in Amherst, United Church of Christ, Request to Maintain a Temporary Shelter, as presented.

3. Hearings – None

4. General Public Comment

Rob Kusner, 49 Van Meter Drive, commented about the appropriation of funds for human services in the Town's budget.

5. Presentations and Discussion

Agenda item 5. b) Board of License Commissioners – Introductions and Update

Town Manager Paul Bockelman introduced the newly appointed Board of License Commissioners: Gaston de los Reyes, Paul Musgrave, Douglas Slaughter, and Marian Walker. Board member Hallie Hughes was not able to attend. The board gave a brief update about what they have accomplished thus far.

Agenda item 5. a) Transportation Update – Douglas Slaughter

Amherst Representative to the PVRTA Douglas Slaughter gave background information about the PVRTA, including information about funding sources, and an explanation of how and when decisions regarding service changes are made.

Rob Kusner, 49 Van Meter Drive, suggested maintaining limited service to routes 30 and 31 during the summer, and urged the Town Council to act quickly to minimize negative impact on residents who utilize the routes.

6. Action Items

- a) **Town Meeting Advisory Committee proposal for Council Advisory Board – *Postponed to a future meeting at the request of the sponsors***
- b) **Community Resources Committee Charge**

Councilors Pam and Schreiber introduced the committee charge.

Discussion included:

- The committee's powers in bringing items to the full Council, and/or the Town Council will refer items to the committee

- The committee could make proposals to the full Council
- Changes to the purpose section of the charge
- Creating an economic development committee that would not be a Town Council subcommittee
- Adding “sustainability” to the purpose section of the charge
- Removing quorum from the charge for consistency with other charges
- Refer back to Ad Hoc committee or refer directly to GOL, members of the Ad Hoc committee expressed they feel their part is complete
- The committee’s interaction with the Planning Board in regard to the Master Plan
- Change “actions of the committee shall” to “actions of the committee may”

MOTION: Councilor DuMont moved, second by Councilor Brewer to add after the words quality of life in Amherst: “and sustainability, which is a primary integrating goal of the Amherst community, and of the Town Master plan.”

VOTED 6-6-1 Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, DuMont, Ross, Schreiber, and Steinberg voted Yes; Councilors Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ryan, Schoen, and Swartz voted No; Councilor De Angelis Abstained; the motion failed.

MOTION: Councilor Hanneke moved, second by Councilor Ross, to add the word “proposed” to the fourth bullet point in section A of the charge. The motion was subsequently withdrawn.

MOTION: councilor Ryan moved, second by Councilor De Angelis to create section D to read: “The Committee may offer policy and other recommendations within its purview for Council discussion and consideration” and removing that sentence from section C.

VOTED unanimously to create section D to read: “The Committee may offer policy and other recommendations within its purview for Council discussion and consideration” and removing that sentence from section C.

MOTION: Councilor Steinberg moved, second by Councilor De Angelis to change the 5th bullet point to “Proposed actions regarding Master Plan in accordance with Charter section 9.8”

VOTED unanimously to change the 5th bullet point to “Proposed actions regarding Master Plan in accordance with Charter section 9.8”

MOTION: Councilor Pam moved, second by Councilor Schoen, to refer the amended charge to the Governance, Organization and Legislation Committee.

VOTED unanimously to refer the amended charge to the Governance, Organization and Legislation Committee.

MOTION: Councilor Schreiber moved, second by Councilor De Angelis to dissolve the Community and Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee

VOTED unanimously to dissolve the Community and Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee.

c) Calendar for Regional Schools' Budget

Councilors briefly discussed the purpose of the three following motions, which allow the Town to consider and act on the regional school district budget during the same time frame the other three towns consider the budget; allow the regional school district budget to be referred directly to the Finance Committee once it is received; and schedule an additional Town Council meeting to review the regional school district budget when Councilor Steinberg will be present.

MOTION: Councilor Griesemer moved, second by Councilor Hanneke, in accordance with Section 5.5(c) of the Amherst Home Rule Charter, to separately consider and act on the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District budget due to the agreement with the three other towns in the Regional School District and that, in compliance with Sections 5.5(a) and 5.5(b) of the Amherst Home Rule Charter adopts the schedule as outlined in the memo from Finance Committee chair, Andrew Steinberg dated March 1, 2019 regarding the Proposed Schedule for Regional School District Budget.

VOTED unanimously by roll call, in accordance with Section 5.5(c) of the Amherst Home Rule Charter, to separately consider and act on the Amherst-Pelham Regional School District budget due to the agreement with the three other towns in the Regional School District and that, in compliance with Sections 5.5(a) and 5.5(b) of the Amherst Home Rule Charter adopts the schedule as outlined in the memo from Finance Committee chair, Andrew Steinberg dated March 1, 2019 regarding the Proposed Schedule for Regional School District Budget.

MOTION: Councilor Griesemer moved, second by Councilor De Angelis, in accordance with Section 5.5(a) of the Amherst Home Rule Charter, to refer the budget recommended by the Regional School District for Fiscal Year 2020 to the Council Finance Committee upon receipt by the Town Council.

VOTED unanimously by roll call, in accordance with Section 5.5(a) of the Amherst Home Rule Charter, to refer the budget recommended by the Regional School District for Fiscal Year 2020 to the Council Finance Committee upon receipt by the Town Council.

MOTION: Councilor Griesemer moved, second by Councilor Ryan to schedule an additional meeting of the Town Council to be held at 6:30 pm on April 29, 2019.

VOTED 12-0-1 (Councilors Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, DuMont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, and Swartz voted Yes; Councilor Steinberg Abstained) to schedule an additional meeting of the Town Council to be held at 6:30 p.m. on April 29, 2019.

Councilor Steinberg gave a Finance Committee update regarding the Four Towns' Meeting; all four towns were in support of the proposed assessment method at the meeting.

d) **Calendar for Town Budget**

Town Manager Paul Bockelman explained that once the Finance Committee makes its recommendation to the full council, the Town Council has 30 days to vote on the budget in June.

Councilor Steinberg explained that the purpose of the FY19 review is to familiarize the Finance Committee members with the budget structure for the subsequent fiscal year. Councilors are welcome to

attend budget meetings, but may need to post meetings of the Town Council if a quorum of councilors attend.

7. Appointments – None

8. Committee Reports

a) **Governance, Organization and Legislation Committee**

Councilor Hanneke stated that a written report will be complete for the next Town Council meeting, suggested actions to be taken by the Town Council will be presented at a later meeting; the committee charge template will soon be complete, and will be shared with Town committees who may update their charges to be consistent with the template.

Councilor Brewer commented that review of Town committees' charges was not part of the GOL Committee charge. Councilors discussed the need for review of Town committees' charges, and the large number of committees in Town. President Griesemer suggested resuming the discussion when the Council has the charge available.

b) [Finance Committee](#)

c) **Outreach, Communication and Appointments**

Councilor Swartz gave an update about the committee's proposed appointment procedure, and challenges the committee faced when creating the procedure; a proposal should be complete by the next Town Council meeting; the committee has also created a subcommittee to focus on outreach.

d) **Rules of Procedure Ad Hoc Committee**

Councilor Brewer stated that the committee will meet tomorrow, and will address topics referred to the committee.

e) **Bylaw Review Committee – No report**

f) **Energy and Climate Action Ad Hoc Committee – Defer to March 18, 2019**

9. Proclamations and Commemorations – *Taken out of order and addressed earlier in the meeting.*

10. Approval of Minutes - None

11. [Town Manager Report](#)

Councilor Hanneke asked about the status of the Station Road Bridge, commented that bids for Groff Park came in within budget, and asked what the plan for Mill Lane will be, as it is an access road for Groff Park and is not drivable for most residents in its current state.

The Town Manager stated that the Town is looking into alternative ways of securing the Station Road Bridge; the pavement plan will be prepared soon, typically, paved roads in need of repair are a higher priority than unpaved roads.

Councilor Schoen asked about the prioritization of paving and road repairs.

The Town Manager stated that the pavement plan will be available to the public, and that the plan is subject to change.

Councilor DuMont commented that the Emergency Preparedness workshop was well run, effective, and well attended.

Councilor Swartz commented that Meadow Street was remarkably quiet through the weekend, and applauded those who organized events for students.

Councilor Brewer commented that OCA would like to explain where the RAC fits into the appointment process; the RAC will not review applications and will be subject to Open Meeting Law.

The Town Manager stated that RAC could be involved individually in the interview process, and/or advise the Town Manager and ensure appointments comply with the Charter.

12. Town Council Comments

a) President Reports

- 1) [Draft Goals of the Council](#)**
- 2) [Draft Values Statement](#)**

Councilor Bahl-Milne introduced the draft values statement and spoke to the importance of creating a cohesive, collective vision for the Town Council.

Councilor Brewer indicated that the Rules of Procedure Ad Hoc Committee is already addressing values, and that the committee will incorporate values into the proposed Council Rules.

President Griesemer stated that a small working group to review and mesh the Town Council's goals with the goals set by the Select Board, as those will be used to evaluate the Town Manager the following summer.

Councilor Brewer clarified that the Select Board established goals for the Town Manager in the fall, the Town Manager's evaluation this year would be based on the Select Board's goals.

MOTION: Councilor Ryan moved, second by Councilor Swartz, to form an Ad Hoc Committee to Assist the President in Establishing Council Goals.

VOTED unanimously to form an Ad Hoc Committee to Assist the President in Establishing Council Goals.

President Griesemer appointed herself and Councilors De Angelis, Ryan, Schoen, and Swartz to the committee.

b) **Future Agenda Items**

- 1) **March 18, 2019 – MSBA Application Presentation and Discussion – School Committee; East Street School Affordable Housing**
- 2) **April 1, 2019 – MSBA Application, Town Council Vote**

c) **Councilor Comments**

President Griesemer asked Councilor Brewer to assist with educating the Town Council about marijuana in Amherst at a future Town Council meeting in May or June.

President Griesemer stated that Douglas Slaughter agreed to look into the proposal Rob Kusner suggested, and will return to the Town Council with additional information from the PVTa regarding the proposal.

Councilor DuMont suggested revisiting Council committee charges to review powers of the committees.

President Griesemer stated that committees of the Council bring recommendations to the full Town Council, not decisions.

Councilor DuMont commented that in the future, recordings of Town Council committee meetings would allow for better transparency.

Councilor Pam commented that the Fort River School Building Feasibility Study meeting was very informative.

13. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the President 48 Hours in Advance – None

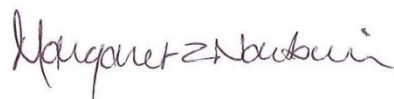
14. Executive Session – None

15. Adjourn

MOVED: Councilor Swartz moved, second by Councilor De Angelis to adjourn.

VOTED unanimously to adjourn at 10:15 p.m. on March 4, 2019.

Respectfully submitted,



Margaret Z. Nartowicz
Town Clerk & Clerk to the Council

Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented

11 Town Manager Report 03-04-2019 with Attachments

12-a DRAFT - Council Goals, Activities, and Timeline

12-a Transcription of butcher paper from retreat - February 2019
12-a-2 Town Council values and guidelines
6-a TMAC Proposal - 11-6-17 STM Results -SEE ARTICLE THIRTEEN HIGHLIGHTED
6-a TMAC Proposal - Select Board Letter to Town Council
6-a TMAC Proposal - Town bylaws pages 24-26 SEE HIGHLIGHTED SECTION
6-b Ad Hoc CED Committee Report to the Council Draft 2.27.19 revised
6-b Community Resource Committee Revised Charge 2.27.19
6-c 6-d DRAFT Finance Committee Schedule March-June 2019 for Council 03-04-19
6-c Budget Calendar - Regional School District - FY20 for Council 03-04-2019
8-b Finance Committee Report 2-28-19
9-a Tibet Day 2019 Proclamation
9-a UPDATED03.04.2019 Amherst Tibet Day 2019 Proclamation numbered
9-b Massachusetts Seal and Flag - background information
9-b Massachusetts Seal and Flag - draft resolution
9-c FCA Resolution Temp Shelter UPDATED 3.4.19 numbered
Agenda 03-04-2019 FINAL 02-28-19 rev. 02-28-19
Agenda 03-04-2019 FINAL 02-28-19 rev. 02-28-19 rev. 03-04-19mn
Change the Massachusetts State Flag handout
Draft Motions for Town Council 03-04-2019 (1)
Draft Motions for Town Council 03-04-2019 rev 03-04-19mn