



**Town of Amherst
Town Council Meeting
Monday, February 22, 2021
6:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting
Minutes**

Complete video is available online: <https://youtu.be/I-F3b4l4OCo>

1. Call to Order

Councilors Participating Remotely: Bahl-Milne, Brewer, De Angelis, Du Mont, Griesemer, Hanneke, Pam, Ross, Ryan, Schoen, Schreiber, Steinberg, Swartz

Councilors Absent: None

Jones Library Trustees participating remotely: Austin Sarat, Lee Edwards, Chris Hoffman, Robert Pam, Alex Lefebvre

Others Participating Remotely: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Library Director Sharon Sharry, Finance Director Sean Mangano, Building Commissioner Rob Morra, Planning Director Christine Brestrup, Head of Reference Information Matthew Berube, Minute-Taker Lindsey McConnell, Clerk of the Council Athena O’Keeffe, Finegold Alexander Architects Representatives Jim Alexander and Tony Hsiao, George Barnes, Ken Guyette, Aelan Tierney, Doug Kelleher, Kent Faerber, Matthew Blumenfeld

After confirming all participants could hear and be heard, President Griesemer declared the presence of a quorum, called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and announced audio and video recording by Amherst Media.

Note: Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, this meeting of the Town Council was conducted via remote participation.

2. Announcements

President Griesemer stated there will be two upcoming opportunities for the public to talk to us about the Library and a link to the recording from this evening, the presentation, and all relevant reports are available in the packet on the Council webpage.

Upcoming Town Council Meetings:

- March 3, 2021, 6:00 PM – Public Forum, Jones Library Options
- March 6, 2021, 2:00 PM – Public Forum, Jones Library Options
- March 8, 2021, 6:30 p.m. – Regular Town Council Meeting

Upcoming Council Committee Meetings:

- Community Resources Committee: February 23, 2021, 2:00 p.m.

- Finance Committee: March 2, 2021, 2:00 p.m.
- Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee: March 3, 2021, 10:30 a.m.
- Town Services and Outreach Committee: February 25, 2021, 5:00 p.m.
- Joint Capital Planning Committee: February 25, 2021, 7:00 p.m.

All meeting agendas and details are posted at www.AmherstMA.gov/Calendar

COVID-19 Call-in Number and Email: The COVID-19 Concern Line (413) 259-2425 and email address covidconcerns@amherstma.gov are now available for residents to communicate their concerns about masks, social distancing, gatherings, etc.

3. Hearings- *None*

4. General Public Comment

Marcie Muehlke, Amherst resident, spoke in favor of renovation and expansion of the Jones Library to create a sustainable, functional and accessible library. Muehlke spoke about positive experiences at the library and programs as well as challenges including lack of accessible and adequate restroom facilities near the children's space, dark and gloomy teen space, and insufficient space for public programs. Muehlke also spoke about the sustainability benefits of the expansion and the need to address leaky skylight.

Lauren Mills, Amherst resident, spoke about racial equity and the need to acknowledge and understand systemic racism and how it continues to effect communities of color and their livelihoods. Mills spoke in favor of R4A request to the Town to transfer money to communities of color. Mills congratulated the Town for unanimously supporting a resolution to rectify the Town's historical and structural racism. Mills spoke the needs to be clear about who are makes up the R4A group before money is given and spoke about the amount of volunteer work that goes in to this and therefore the need to be supported financially. Reparations include money and energy. Mills spoke about the few of her ancestors she knows and the goal of building a legacy on the collective memory of her grandparents with a reparative solution that enhances the lives for all of us.

Michelle Miller, Amherst resident, spoke as co-chair of Reparations thanked Town Manger Bockelman for the excellent step of agreeing to continue legal research regarding repatriations. Miller stated they are requesting \$5,000 specifically to compensate black community members and leaders for R4A to advance reparations in Amherst.

Peter Blood, co-convener of Interfaith Opportunity Network, spoke about the Network's support for the Town's effort to look deeply at reparations. Blood spoke in support for the Town providing financial support to bring in members of Evanston and Amherst residents of color in research. Blood stated to research reparations fairly and adequately providing a modest amount of money would go a long way to moving this forward.

Toni Cunningham Amherst resident, stated concern about the accuracy of financial information provided about the cost to repair the library including the interest rates and cost of construction estimates. Cunningham stated the need to financial data to enable fair comparison of renovation and repair options, spoke against the inclusion of CPA money as fundraised money versus tax payer contribution. Cunningham stated concern about what the cost will mean for other Town needs including loss of funds in operation budgets that will lead to job losses.

Isabel Ramirez Amherst resident spoke in favor of Jones Library renovations and expansion. Ramirez spoke about her experiences in the ESL program for herself and her children when moving to Amherst

from Mexico with her husband's PhD program. Ramirez stated the Library's programs provided invaluable support, helped them adapt and feel connected to the community. Ramirez spoke about the challenges finding space in the Library to practice English and the need to expand the children's areas so it will be less crowded.

Pat Ononibaku, Amherst resident, spoke in support of providing funding to pay for work on reparations. Ononibaku spoke about the discrimination she has experienced in the 25 years she has lived in Amherst and the hope she felt when the Council made a commitment to address equity.

Agenda Item 7.a. Presentations and Discussion: Jones Library Board of Trustees Presentation on Jones Library Building

Austin Sarat called meeting of Jones Library Trustees to order at 6:58 p.m. and announced the presence of a quorum. All members stated they can hear and be heard except Lee Edwards.

Griesemer recognized representative Mindy Domb was in attendance. Griesemer stated the Councilors can ask their top two questions, it is likely not all questions will be answered this evening, additional questions can be emailed, audience members can also email questions. Griesemer states the meeting is not for debate and instead a motion has been drafted to send the Jones Library to the Finance Committee to

De Angelis asked about design process and the possibility of future tweaks to further reduce carbon emissions and reduce construction costs such as a more judicious use of glazing and adjusting the placement of skylights and lights over stacks.

Hsaio stated details like schematics and lighting analysis will be looked at in more depth in the next phase and details will continue to evolve.

Schreiber spoke about 1993 library addition being demolished and asked about what will be done to ensure this project doesn't meet a similar fate 30 years from now.

Hsaio spoke about the need for use of long lasting materials, attention to detail and careful execution to improve existing building and design so it is efficient and sustainable. Hsaio spoke their experience with of similarly complex projects.

Ryan, Pam, and Schoen asked about tax credits including the assumption there will be a market for tax credits, the likelihood of success of the application for credits and if aspects of the renovation options would also be eligible for tax credits.

Kelleher stated there is no shortage of people looking to purchase these tax credits because there is no shortage of people who have tax liability. Kelleher stated they have never had situation where there is not appetite for investment. Kelleher stated credits are awarded to projects that qualify and spoke about the need for the new addition to compliment historical part of the Library and the benefit of local support. Kelleher stated the renovation options could also qualify.

Ryan asked Tierney about who would choose repair option one.

Tierney stated the first option is looking at three phases focused on the lowest cost first to minimize initial investment and avoid triggering accessibility requirements that are more expensive.

Steinberg asked about the possibility the contract is sent out to bid and nobody bids for the amount that is consistent with the plan the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC) approved.

Hsaio spoke about the ongoing practice of reconciling cost estimate as the project evolves.

Guyette spoke about processes to prevent this including several design phases and owner and designer estimators that have deep knowledge of the market. Guyette spoke about owner and construction forms of contingency including soft costs and hard costs.

Griesemer asked about the percentage factored in for each of those contingencies.

Guyette stated it is typically 5% each.

Dorothy Pam spoke about the scenario in Option 2 where the Town puts money out first and then pays itself back and actually earns money with interest. Pam asked why this is not a strategy used in the other two options.

Mangano spoke about the timing of the library project and debt payments that will need to be made with other potential projects. Mangano stated decisions need to be made soon so the Town can determine when they will go out for bonds to lock in interest rates.

Schoen asked about the amount of risks the endowment can tolerate and under what circumstances the operating budget would be put at risk and staffing will be cut.

Sarat clarified repairing is not the same as renovating and the options are to repairs without renovation or renovate and expand.

Robert Pam spoke about how level of risk was calculated and what scenarios were considered. Pam stated when carrying out these calculations were carried out ten years in to the future, there were no periods of time that there would be such a reduction in operating funds to the library that it would not be able to function. Pam stated the inability to guarantee that under no circumstances it would fail due to lack of control of things like the market and fundraising.

Schoen asked if the Town would be at risk?

Robert Pam stated the Town's risk is that the MBLC require the library be able to continue to function and stated he does not think that is likely.

Du Mont expressed frustration there is not a repair option that includes energy efficient retrofits. Du Mont asked about what portions of the new and old buildings the Energy Use Intensity (EUI) of 29 and net zero readiness applies to. Du Mont also asked if the Library could commit to not reducing money to branches?

Hsaio stated the EUI analysis was done with the entire building in consideration so it is not just the new addition and of course the existing building has a different set of construction.

Du Mont asked if that that implies the repair option would also be able to have significant thermal improvements.

Hsaio stated the analysis was not broken out that way.

Sarat stated if the Council wants us to get an estimate to make the existing building more energy efficient we could do that and stated that would substantially raise the cost to the repair.

Griesemer asked if there will things done in renovation of existing part of the building that will contribute to the EUI.

Sarat responded yes, he believed so.

Sharry stated they will maintain staffing for the library portion of the North Amherst library but not able to pay the additional costs related to expanding the Library to add a meeting room that is Town building for Town functions.

Hanneke asked if the projected 8% savings on electricity includes subtracting energy that will be generated by the solar panels and asked to confirm the repair only options do not include any energy reduction options.

Sarat and Guyette confirmed that is correct.

Bahl-Milne spoke favorably about the Library's thoughtful process and the large amount of people the library serves. Bahl-Milne asked about how the cost of repairs is more than the cost of renovating and expanding and if the renovated space will have meeting spaces for rent.

Mangano responded the repair option one is estimated to be more expensive because it is set to take place over a much longer period of time including borrowing in 2026 or 2027 when interest rates are expected to be higher.

Griesemer asked about the phases of borrowing.

Mangano stated money has to be spent within a certain amount of time after it is borrowed. Mangano stated the repair option one has three bond anticipation notes and would eventually be converted into a longer term bond to line up with those three phases.

Sharry stated the Woodbury room would be available after hours, the Amherst room would be useable by the public, the Goodwin board room would also be usable by the public when renovated and renovating will add dedicated spaces for programs so there will be less competition for space in general.

Lefebvre stated the average EUI for libraries nationally is 72 and the EUI of 29 for is pretty spectacular considering number of computers and lights.

Griesemer stated financial questions will be saved them for the Finance Committee and thanked the Trustees and consultants for extremely thorough kicking-off of ongoing conversations.

Sarat adjourn Library Board of Trustees at 8:53 p.m.

MOTION: President Griesemer moved, second by Councilor Hanneke, to refer the Jones Library Presentation and all other accompanying documents and referenced documents to the Finance Committee to review the financial elements of each option and provide that review to the Town Council for consideration at their meeting on Monday, April 5, 2021.

VOTED unanimously, 13-0 by roll call, to refer the Jones Library Presentation and all other accompanying documents and referenced documents to the Finance Committee to review the financial elements of each option and provide that review to the Town Council for consideration at their meeting on Monday, April 5, 2021.

A 10 minute break was given, the Council resumed at 9:00 p.m. and Griesemer confirmed all Councilors could hear and be heard.

5. Consent Agenda

Consent Agenda: The following items were selected because they were considered to be routine and it was reasonable to expect they would pass with no controversy. To remove an item from the consent agenda for discussion later in the meeting, ask that it be removed when the President lists the consent agenda items. The request to remove an item from the consent agenda does not require a second.

MOTION: Griesemer moved, second by Councilor Ryan, to move the following items, and the printed motions thereunder and approve those items as a single unit:

- 8.a.(1) Adoption of Amendments to Town Council Rules of Procedure rules 2.1, 4.3, 5.7, 8.1, 9.5, and addition of Appendix B
- 9.a. Approval of Town Manager Appointment:
 - Town Clerk
- 11.a-c. Approval of Minutes:
 - January 20, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Joint meeting with Planning Board
 - January 25, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
 - February 8, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

Dorothy Pam confirmed rule 6.3 is not included in this vote and asked if rule 9.5 was discussed.

Hanneke spoke about the relevant recent changes in state law regarding the number of votes required.

Griesemer confirmed this correction to rule 9.5 makes it consistent with the law.

VOTED unanimously, 13-0 by roll call, to move the following items, and the printed motions thereunder and approve those items as a single unit:

- 8.a.(1) Adoption of Amendments to Town Council Rules of Procedure rules 2.1, 4.3, 5.7, 8.1, 9.5, and addition of Appendix B
- 9.a. Approval of Town Manager Appointment:
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6. Resolutions and Proclamations- *None*

7. Presentations and Discussion- continued

b. Update on Zoning Priorities and Work Plan

Planning Director Christine Brestrup and Building Commissioner Rob Morra presented on the zoning revisions work plan including:

- Reviewed history of the project and January 4th, 2021 Council vote
- Reviewed Phase I goals Council hoped would be presented in March
- Reviewed Phase II goals hoped would be presented in September
- Council list and PD goals reviewed in the Phase I work plan including
 - BL Zoning District- how to build more housing in the B-L including focus on tow B-L districts abutting B-G and move ahead with option to create an overlay district 100; back from front property
 - Eliminated Footnote “m” in the R-G to promote infill. Staff and PB have been studying this and are moving toward a proposed amendment
 - Expand the size of Supplemental Dwelling Units (SDUs) increase size from 800ft to 1,000 sq ft and continuing to research

- Apartment definition- current states can't have more the 24 units and no more than 50% can be of the same bedroom type. Considering to divide in to classes based on number of units, include design standards
- Mixed use building standards to define amount of commercial space required, types of or mix of units, or amount of parking on ground floor
- Inclusionary Zoning to incorporate in all development that have ten or more units
- Recodification including formatting, renumbering, references, etc
- Schedule including ongoing meetings with CRC and PB

Griesemer thanked the Planning Department (PD) staff, the Community Resources Committee (CRC) and the Planning Board (PB) for all of their time and thought.

Hanneke thanked the entire planning staff for all their efforts.

Ryan asked about the level of Area Median Income (AMI) being considered in the Inclusionary Zoning bylaw and about the 40R program?

Brestrup stated they will be sticking to 80% or less AMI for now because that is what is covered by supplemental housing inventory list that the State keeps. Brestrup added 40R is on the back burner due to the focus of the PB and stated there is interest in developing 40R for village centers.

Pam spoke favorably of the tremendous work the PD is doing.

Du Mont asked if who staff anticipated would live in the B-L district and if there has been any research on how residents feel about additional housing in the B-L. Du Mont also asked the process of the PD staff working with both the CRC and PB, spoke about it feeling intertwined as asked what is required under the charter. Du Mont also asked about a plan for figuring out which items require a 2/3 vote with the Council.

Brestrup stated the 2015 housing market study showed that many different types of people wanted to live in Amherst and spoke about the desirability of the area considering it is close to services, transportation and Amherst College. Brestrup spoke about the positive aspects of working with the CRC and PB and the robust conversations and with members and the public happening at the PB meetings. Brestrup added they do not know which revisions require a 2/3 vote yet.

Schreiber asked about how bylaw changes would deal with intentional housing like cohousing where the residents are determined not through a lottery.

Brestrup stated that is good question that has not been discussed yet.

Schoen asked about putting drawings in the zoning code and about the possibility of 3D mockups to help consider the potential mas of new buildings.

Brestrup stated the PD is intending to include drawings in to the new bylaw because it helps people understand and the PD has acquired a new 3D drawing program that will help give better idea of massing and sizes.

Brewer spoke in favor of the way the PB and CRC are working because it is efficient and allows for ongoing conversations. Brewer spoke about the possibility the PB and CRC will have different views and stated the PB will have the opportunity to express that in their report.

Brestrup and Morra left meeting at 9:35 p.m.

8. Action Items

**a. Amendments to Town Council Rules of Procedure
(1) Rules 2.1, 4.3, 5.7, 8.1, 9.5, and addition of Appendix B**

Rules 2.1, 4.3, 5.7, 8.1, 9.5, and addition of Appendix B

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To amend Town Council Rule of Procedure 2.1 by deleting subsections b. and c., adding the sentence “The President shall preside over the election of the Vice President.” as subsection b., renaming subsection d. as subsection c., and adding the following as subsection d.:

- d. The Elections shall be run as follows:
 1. The Presiding Officer will ask Councilors for nominations.
 - i. Nominations are limited to a name, not an explanation or discussion.
 - ii. Councilors may nominate themselves.
 - iii. Nominations do not require a second.
 2. After each nomination, the Presiding Officer will ask the Councilor nominated if they accept the nomination.
 - i. Acceptance is limited to a yes or no, not an explanation or discussion.
 3. When there are no further nominations, the Presiding Officer will ask each nominee, in alphabetical order by last name, if they would like to make a brief statement, up to 2 minutes long.
 4. The Presiding Officer will open the floor to Councilors, excluding nominees, to make one brief statement, if they wish, on the election of the office, up to 2 minutes.
 5. The Clerk of the Council will then ask Councilors to vote by written ballot.
 - i. Ballots will list the name of the Councilor voting and the name of the nominee the Councilor wishes to vote for, or “abstain”.
 - ii. The Clerk of the Council will collect the ballots and, after all ballots are submitted, read each one out loud as follows: “Councilor XX votes for Councilor YY.”
 - iii. After reading each Councilors’ vote, the Clerk of the Council will announce the results.
 1. The nominee who receives a majority of votes of the full Town Council, at least 7 yes votes, will be deemed elected to office. If no nominee receives a majority of votes of the full Town Council, the Presiding Officer will repeat the process beginning with Section d.1.
 - iv. The Clerk of the Council will swear in the officer after the election.

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To amend Town Council Rule of Procedure 4.3 by replacing the word “shall” with the word “may”.

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To amend Town Council Rule of Procedure 5.7 by adding the following to the end of the Rule:

Open Meeting requests under Charter Sec. 8.1 shall comply with the following procedures:

- a. The request shall be made in writing by at least 200 residents 18 years or older, including names and addresses. (Charter Sec. 8.1)

- b. The residents making the request shall provide, through a paper or electronic document, a legible name, legible address, confirmation that they are 18 years or older, and at least one of the following for verification purposes: phone number, email address, or signature. A sample form for use that meets these requirements can be found in Appendix B.
- c. The request shall be submitted to the Town Council either in person through the Clerk of the Council or by email at towncouncil@amherstma.gov.
- d. Once the Council President determines the request meets the requirements of Charter Sec. 8.1 and sets the date, time, and location for the meeting, the Clerk of the Council shall publish notification of the Open Meeting on the Town Bulletin Board and as a special Council meeting on the Town Calendar, and notify the first 10 residents who made the request. Notification shall be published at least 10 days in advance of the Open Meeting.

and to add Appendix B, as follows, to the Rules of Procedure:

Appendix B: Charter Sec. 8.1 Proposed Request Format (for paper or electronic use)

Town of Amherst, Massachusetts
Request for an Opening Meeting of Residents
Amherst Home Rule Charter, Section 8.1

(For the Council to call a meeting, 200 Amherst residents, 18 years or older, must be listed)

Date: _____

The following residents of the Town of Amherst submit this request under Amherst Home Rule Charter Section 8.1 to the Amherst Town Council for an Open Meeting of Residents of the Town stating the following specific issues or concerns related to matters upon which the requested body may act (include purpose(s) of the meeting):

	Legible Name (Required)	Legible Address (Required)	Check if 18 or older	Phone Number OR Email Address OR Signature (for verification purposes) (Must include one)
1				
2				
3				
4				

Etc.				

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To amend Town Council Rule of Procedure 8.1.a. by adding the following after the paragraph “Each proposed bylaw shall include a statement of authority for the Council to act with the appropriate section of the Charter or MGL clearly cited.”:

Proposed general bylaws shall be initiated and introduced by submission to the Council in one of the following manners:

1. By a Councilor Sponsor;
2. By the Town Manager or their designee;
3. By a Town Committee; or
4. By a Group Petition or by Initiative as described in [Charter Sec. 8.2\(b\), 8.3, and 8.5](#).

Proposed zoning bylaws shall be initiated and introduced by submission to the Council in one of the following manners, in accordance with M.G.L. Ch. 40A Sec. 5:

1. By a Councilor Sponsor;
2. By the Zoning Board of Appeals;
3. By the Planning Board;
4. By the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission;
5. By the Town Manager or their designee;
6. By a Town Committee;
7. By an individual owning land to be affected by the change or adoption;
8. By the request of ten (10) registered voters; or
9. By a Group Petition or by Initiative as described in [Charter Sec. 8.2\(b\), 8.3, and 8.5](#).

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To amend Town Council Rule of Procedure 9.5 by deleting the line “A properly protested zoning bylaw change. Charter Sec. 2.10(a) and MGL Ch. 40A Sec. 5.” from the section “Items requiring at least 10 votes in favor for passage:” and inserting it in the section “Items requiring at least 9 votes in favor for passage:”, adding the line “Certain zoning bylaw changes in accordance with Charter Sec. 2.10(a) and MGL Ch. 40A Sec. 5.” to the section “Items requiring at least 7 votes in favor for passage:”, and revising the line “A zoning bylaw change. Charter Sec. 2.10(a) and MGL Ch. 40A Sec. 5” to read “Certain zoning bylaw changes in accordance with Charter Sec. 2.10(a) and MGL Ch. 40A Sec. 5.” in the section “Items requiring at least 9 votes in favor for passage:”.

(2) Rule 6.3

Griesemer stated in the interest of time discussion of rule 6.3 will be moved to a future meeting when rule 6.3.d is also being discussed.

b. Amendments to the Town Council Policy Regarding the Control and Regulation of the Public Ways – First Discussion

Du Mont referred to packet item 8.b. Public Way Policy TSO Proposed Amended February 11, 2021 - REDLINED - as amended at GOL, stated TSO agreed routine maintenance doesn’t need approval and reviewed changes TSO recommends. Du Mont stated the most substantive of those changes are in Section

3 including delegating placement of road and temporary signs in the Public way to the Town Manger and that the Council keep authority related to permanent changes to public way.

Ryan stated the GOL committee inserted one non-substantive phrase and made some formatting changes.

Pam asked about the removal of crosswalk being placed out of the Council's authority because it is a safety issue.

Du Mont stated TSO's discussed included that crosswalks were frequent subjects of resident requests/

Pam spoke about preventing crosswalks from being political and that safety matters are better addressed by people who deal with safety like Department of Public Works.

Brewer stated the opinion Councilors should not deal with individuals about cross walks, spoke in favor of Council authority over the Public Way and spoke about the Select Boards role in getting crosswalks in needed places in the past.

Ryan agreed with Brewers and spoke about the role of community requests.

Griesemer asked about the level of detail appropriate for Council to be involved in and stated this is a first reading and the issue is not currently up for a vote.

9. Appointments

a. Town Manager Appointments

(1) Town Clerk – Charter Sec. 2.11(a)

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: In accordance with Charter Section 2.11(a), to approve the Town Manager's appointment of Susan Audette as Town Clerk, as filed with the Town Clerk on February 10, 2021, and recommended by the Town Services and Outreach Committee report of February 22, 2021, effective immediately.

b. Town Council Appointments- *None*

10. Committee and Liaison Reports

a. Community Resources Committee

Hanneke stated the Council heard many CRC updates from the PD's presentation and the committee is still working on the Housing policy which the Council will have a first look at a draft at the next meeting.

b. Elementary School Building Committee

Schoen stated the committee was officially invited in to the feasibility phase of the project and a request is being put out for an owners project manager.

c. Finance Committee

Steinberg stated the committee reviewed the FY20 audit and met with Tonya Campbell from Melanson Health, spoke about the process to make adjustments to previously adopted budget guidelines considering the revised estimate of a 1.5 % increase in each area and, stated a joint meeting with Council will be held for a presentation from Mangano about how to fund the 4 major projects.

Griesemer stated the Council will not need to approve the audit but in April we will need to approve RFP for audit services.

Hanneke asked if the Finance Committee will ask the Council to amend the guidelines considering the modifications.

Steinberg stated the adopted Guidelines recognize there could be changes to amounts and include recommendations for priorities if additional funds become available based on goals adopted by the Town Manger.

Brewer spoke about how similar scenario was handled in the past and asked if there has been have you considered some sort of shift or allocation beyond saying stay tuned.

Griesemer- glad you asked about Budget Coordinate Group (BCG) we can go ahead and do that, I'm not clear how that is going to resolve the issue. The good news is with 1.5 % increase the TM as directed it would equally go to each department and unit.

Bockelman- we have a very good working relationship so departments understand what they are receiving. School Department is getting more money but they have to make cuts due to commitments/contracted agreement. There are jobs being eliminated but they are not getting less money from the time.

Steinberg referred to his past service on the Budget Coordinating Group - if there was a change in the amount of money that became available we always started with assumption be divided equal and had space that if there was an area that felt there was a exception situation they would want considered that request could come forward and would be discussed. BCG is cooperative way to have 4 segments of budget to have conversation under those circumstances.

Griesemer will consult with Town Manager and see if anything need to do.

Ryan- have concerns about school budget do feel it is an extraordinary year without schools. Do have concern when students return considering will they be behind, motional issues, is that something BCG would consider.

d. Governance, Organization, and Legislation Committee

Ryan reported the committee will review a resolution on decarbonization, whether single policy for appointment when we do our reviews, each committee has very different policies on how to recommend appointments.

Griesemer stated GOL will also be receiving a Tibetan day resolution for review prior to the next Council meeting.

e. Joint Capital Planning Committee

Schoen reported the group saw a comprehensive look at capital requests for five years, starting to incorporate the big projects, as well as an inventory of capital assets.

f. Town Services and Outreach Committee

Du Mont reported the committee is in the process of setting up outreach meetings regarding Pomeroy intersection projects, one will be incorporated in regular meeting and one on a weekend day. We reached out to other stakeholders to get feedback on intersection versus roundabouts. Surveillance coming up and search for town facilities for housing.

- g. Liaison Reports: Affordable Housing Trust, Board of Health, Board of License Commissioners, Community Preservation Act Committee, Council on Aging, Disabilities Access Advisory Committee, LSSE Commission, Transportation Advisory Committee**

11. Approval of Minutes- Consent Agenda

- a. January 20, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Joint meeting with Planning Board
- b. January 25, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
- c. February 8, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

VOTED VIA CONSENT AGENDA: To adopt the following Town Council meeting minutes, as presented:

- January 20, 2021 Special Town Council Meeting minutes – Joint meeting with Planning Board
- January 25, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes
- February 8, 2021 Regular Town Council Meeting minutes

12. Town Manager Report

Town Manager Paul Bockelman spoke briefly about:

- Audit report confirms the Town finances are strong and reserves are healthy
- Ongoing UMass and Town response to COVID-19 and vaccinations
- Outreach via Cuppa Joe with the Town Manager
- Town Services and Outreach Committee work on homeless shelter
- Community Safety Working Group going out to bid for a consultant

Pam asked about the Station Road Bridge.

Ryan asked about the rental registration bylaw.

DuMont asked about Northampton’s vaccination program

Hanneke asked about the Community Safety Working Group deadline in terms of the budget process, and about reparations.

Bahl-Milne spoke about an opportunity to work with Alderman Simmons.

Schoen asked about a survey on the North Common options circulated by Ross.

Councilors discussed the procurement process with the Town Manager.

Schreiber spoke about “stakeholders” involved in outreach efforts for the North Common and Pomeroy Village intersection, and that the whole Town should be involved.

13. Town Council Comments

a. President Report

(1) Update on 2021 Calendar and Agenda Items

Pam asked about municipal broadband.

b. Future Agenda Items

Bahl-Milne spoke about the anti-racism training planned for Councilors.

c. Councilor Comments

Brewer spoke about reparations and requested that it be added to a future agenda.

Councilors discussed the scheduling of anti-racism training.

De Angelis spoke about reparations, the Community Safety Working Group and follow-through on the Council's resolution.

14. Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of the Meeting

15. Executive Session- *None*

16. Adjourn

President Griesemer declared the meeting of the Town Council adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsey McConnell

Record of Agenda Packet Materials and Documents Presented

- 00. 02-22-2021 Draft Motions for Town Council as of 2-19-21
- 00. 02-22-2021 FINAL Town Council Agenda
- 7.a. Jones Library Trustees Financial Information regarding expansion project, presentation, and video
- 7.b. PPT re Zoning Amend Work Plan 02-22-21 and 02-23-21
- 8.a. Proposed Revisions to ROP - 2021-02-22
- 8.b. Public Way Policy TSO Proposed Amended 2-11-21 - CLEAN - as amended at GOL 2-17-21
- 8.b. Public Way Policy TSO Proposed Amended February 11, 2021 - REDLINED - as amended at GOL
- 9.a. Town Clerk Appointment - 02-10-2021 updated 02-21-2021
- 9.a. Town Clerk Appointment Memo - 02-10-2021
- 10.c.1. Amherst, MA FS20 - Final
- 10.c.1. Amherst, MA SAR20 - Final
- 10.c.1. Melanson FY20 Audit Presentation 2-5-21
- 11.a. 01-20-2021 DRAFT Special Town Council Meeting minutes - joint meeting with Planning Board
- 11.b. 01-25-2021 DRAFT Town Council Minutes
- 11.c. 02-08-21 DRAFT Town Council Minutes
- 12. Town Manager Report 02-22-2021
- 13.a. President Report - February 2021
- 13.a.1. Future Agendas as of 2-21-2021
- 2021-02-22 GOL Report to Town Council
- 2021-02-22 Finance Committee report to Town Council
- 2021-02-22 TSO Report to Town Council
- FY22 Projections - FinCom 2.5.21