



**Town of Amherst, NH**  
**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES**  
**Barbara Landry Meeting Room**  
**2 Main Street**  
**Monday, April 28, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.**

**Call to Order:** Chairman Dwight Brew called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Attendees: Chairman Dwight Brew, Vice-Chair Mike Akillian, Selectmen John D'Angelo, and Tom Grella. Selectman Brad Galinson and Town Administrator, Jim O'Mara, were absent. Also present: Executive Assistant, Torrey Demanche and Suzanne Beauchesne taking minutes.

**Pledge of Allegiance** – Torrey Demanche, Executive Assistant, led the pledge.

**Citizens' Forum** – A number of citizens were in attendance, primarily to support Deputy Fire Chief Matt Conley. Chairman Brew asked those who were in attendance for other reasons to step forward. Linda Kaiser approached and reiterated her comments made at the April 14<sup>th</sup> Board meeting regarding the need to take a closer look at the traffic pattern surrounding the Manchester Road Bridge. Ms. Kaiser expressed her dissatisfaction at not being informed of a recent Historic District Commission meeting where Hoyle Tanner presented a slide show. She since has received a letter from Hoyle Tanner requesting her signature which she does not intend to provide until she is able to observe the slide show. Selectman Grella pointed out that the Hoyle Tanner meeting was an open meeting. Ms. Kaiser stated that she was not aware of the meeting and does want to be involved in the discussion.

Erik Swenson, President of the Amherst Fire Department Association, distributed and read a letter supporting Deputy Chief Matt Conley to replace retiring Fire Chief Mark Boynton (letter attached). Dan Bonenfant stood up in support of the letter, as did Robert Raduazzo, David Melendy, and John Leonard. Twenty-five (25) firefighters were in attendance in support of the Deputy Chief.

**IV. Foundry Street**

Chairman Brew called upon Public Works Director, Bruce Berry. Vice-Chair Akillian indicated that at the April 14<sup>th</sup> Selectmen's meeting there was much concern expressed about the construction work having to be done on Foundry Street over two summers rather than one. Meetings were held with the School Administration where a number of options were re-considered. Once it was realized that the school break for 2015 will be longer than that for this year, and after the Board of Selectmen approved a change order to extend the contract with Continental Paving for Foundry Street at the April 14, 2014 meeting, Director Berry was able to negotiate with Pennichuck Water Company and Continental Paving to get all the work done during the school's 2015 summer break.

Director Berry indicated that school vacation in 2015 extends from June 8<sup>th</sup> through September 2<sup>nd</sup>; that Pennichuck Water Company could begin construction on June 8<sup>th</sup>; and Continental Paving would have all their work done (except sidewalks) by August 25<sup>th</sup>. Director Berry stated that no further motions were necessary to proceed with the plan since the Board had provided approval via Change Order 01 with Continental Paving at the last BOS meeting.

Chairman Brew suggested moving the order of the agenda and taking up the issues of import to the firefighters while they were in attendance.

54 **VII. Town Administrator (part I)**

55  
56 **a) Fire Chief Retirement**

57 Chairman Brew referenced a letter of resignation from Fire Chief Mark Boynton and thanked Chief  
58 Boynton for his excellent work on behalf of the citizens of Amherst. Vice Chair Akillian moved to accept,  
59 with regret, the resignation of Fire Chief Mark Boynton, effective May 13, 2014. Seconded by Selectman  
60 D'Angelo. Vote 4-0  
61

62 **b) Safety Review**

63 Chairman Brew opened the discussion with a reminder of safety service delivery gaps that were identified  
64 during the strategic planning process. Selectman D'Angelo reported that he, Director Gleason, Chief  
65 Boynton, Chief Reams and Administrator O'Mara have met with the idea of possibly pooling EMS and  
66 Safety in order to take advantage of available resources; specifically, dual certified personnel that would  
67 help address shortfalls when necessary. Selectman D'Angelo further stated that the group has identified  
68 some benefits of a merger and will be seeking counsel from consultants who are experienced with such  
69 mergers. The work continues to move forward in exploring different sets of organizational structures. A  
70 proposal from the consultant is expected in two weeks. The Board felt this review process was timely since  
71 any needed/preferred experience criteria could be included in the job description of a new fire chief.  
72

73 **c) Fire Chief Vacancy**

74 Chairman Brew noted that Fire Chief Boynton's last day of employment to be May 13<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Grella  
75 moved to name Matthew Conley as Acting Fire Chief effective May 14<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Vice Chair  
76 Akillian. Vote 4-0  
77

78 Fire Chief Boynton distributed and read a letter of support for Deputy Fire Chief Matthew Conley.  
79

80 **V. Committee and Commission Appointments**

81  
82 **a) Amherst Town Library Alternate**

83 In response to a recommendation made by Nancy Baker, Chairman of the Amherst Library Board of  
84 Trustees, Selectman D'Angelo moved to appoint Edward Obermiller to another one year term as an  
85 Alternate to the Library Board of Trustees. Seconded by Selectman Grella. Vote 4-0  
86

87 **b) Capital Improvement Committee (CIP)**

88 Sarah Marchant, Community Development Director, sent a memorandum recommending that Gene  
89 Kuczewski be appointed to participate on the CIP committee as the ASD Ways and Means representative  
90 for the School District. Vice Chair Akillian moved to appoint Gene Kuczewski to the CIP committee.  
91 Seconded by Selectman D'Angelo. Vote 4-0  
92

93 **VI. Approvals**

94  
95 **a) Accounts Payable**

96 Selectman D'Angelo motioned to approve one (1) FY14 Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of  
97 \$153,675.17 dated April 21, 2014 subject to review and audit. Seconded by Vice Chairman Akillian. Vote  
98 4-0  
99

100 Selectman D'Angelo motioned to approve one (1) FY14 Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of  
101 \$42,310.34 dated April 24, 2014 subject to review and audit. (Town Clerk Transfers to the State of NH).  
102 Seconded by Vice Chairman Akillian. Vote 4-0  
103

104 Selectman D'Angelo motioned to approve one (1) FY14 Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of  
105 \$2,468,851.00 dated May 1, 2014 subject to review and audit. (Schools). Seconded by Vice Chairman  
106 Akillian. Vote 4-0  
107

108 **b) Payroll**

109 Selectman D'Angelo motioned to approve one (1) FY14 Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$164,461.71  
110 dated May 1, 2014 subject to review and audit. Seconded by Vice Chairman Akillian. Vote 4-0  
111

112 **c) Board of Selectmen Minutes**

113 Selectman D'Angelo motioned to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of Monday, April 14,  
114 2014. Seconded by Vice Chairman Akillian. Vote 4-0  
115

116 **d) Board of Health Minutes**

117 Vice Chairman Akillian motioned to approve the March 10, 2014 Board of Health meeting minutes, with  
118 amendments. Seconded by Selectman Grella. Vote 3-0-1 (Selectman D'Angelo abstaining)  
119

120 **e) Abatements**

121 Selectman D'Angelo read a recommendation from KRT Appraisal. The subject property is a vacant 1.81  
122 acre lot located at 4 Trask Way. A land use change tax was issued in the amount of \$20,000; however, the  
123 lot should not have been issued a LUCT as it is contiguous with other lots in current use. A LUCT bill was  
124 created and issued but has not been paid; hence, an administrative abatement is recommended to clear the  
125 account. No check will be issued. Selectman D'Angelo motioned to grant the administrative abatement in  
126 the amount of \$20,000 for 2014 for Map 005 Lot 059-014. Seconded by Vice Chairman Akillian. Vote 4-0  
127

128 Selectman D'Angelo read a recommendation from KRT Appraisal. The subject property is a cape style  
129 home on a 2.5 acre parcel located at 10 Boston Post Road. The reason for the request is the owner's  
130 concern with the assessment due to the home being listed as antique and comparable assessments. The  
131 property was inspected and the appraiser found that the home is only antique by the age or original  
132 construction. The interior no longer has any resemblance of an antique home. The style of the home  
133 should be corrected from antique to cape. After correction, the assessment is reduced by \$178,100 to  
134 \$572,700. Selectman D'Angelo motioned to grant the abatement request in the amount of \$4,711 for 2013,  
135 for Map 007 Lot 083-004. Seconded by Vice Chairman Akillian. Vote 4-0  
136

137 **f) Elderly Exemptions**

138 Selectman D'Angelo motioned to approve elderly exemption requests for Map 006 Lot 108-004 located at  
139 23 Ravine Road, Map 002 Lot 043-005 located at 3 Paul's Way, and Map 006 Lot 038-013 located at 18  
140 Dream Lake Drive in the amount of \$71,000 each for 2014. Seconded by Selectman Grella. Vote 4-0  
141

142 Selectman D'Angelo motioned to deny the elderly exemption request for Map 005 Lot 035-000 located at  
143 119 Amherst Street for 2014. Seconded by Selectman Grella. Vote 4-0  
144

145 **g) Veteran Tax Credit**

146 Selectman D'Angelo motioned to approve a Disabled Veteran Tax Credit for 2014 in the amount of \$1,400  
147 for Map 005 Lot 111-016 located at 2 Candlewood Drive. Seconded by Selectman Grella. Vote 4-0  
148

149 Selectman D'Angelo motioned to approve a Disabled Veteran Tax Credit for 2014 in the amount of \$500  
150 for Map 004 Lot 018-013 located at 7 Corduroy Road #13. Seconded by Vice Chairman Akillian. Vote 4-0  
151

152 **h) Elderly Disabled Tax Deferrals**

153 Vice Chairman Akillian motioned to approve the 2013 Elderly/Tax Deferrals for Map 002 Lot 010-001 in  
154 the amount of \$3,372; Map 006 Lot 088-000 in the amount of \$2,283; Map 007 Lot 083-021 in the amount  
155 of \$5,539; and Map 006 Lot 038-013 in the amount of \$5,277; and to table the request for Map 006 Lot  
156 023-000. Seconded by Selectman Grella. Vote 4-0  
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162 **VII. Town Administrator (continued)**

163  
164 **a) Fire Chief Retirement (previously discussed)**

165 **b) Fire Chief Vacancy (previously discussed)**

166 **c) Safety Review (previously discussed)**

167  
168 **d) FY14 Budget Transfers**

169 Vice Chair Akillian moved to transfer \$2,205 from the FY14 budget, Cemetery Fund “tree care” account to  
170 the “general supplies” account. Selectman Grella seconded. Vote 4-0

171  
172 **e) Line Striping Bid**

173 Selectman Grella moved to accept the Line Striping bid submitted by Industrial Traffic Lines in the amount  
174 of \$16,469.76. Seconded by Selectman D’Angelo. Vote 4-0

175  
176 **f) Declaration of Surplus**

177 Selectman D’Angelo motioned that Truck 1 (1996 TopKick), Truck 6 (1999 Int’l Dump), and Truck 16  
178 (2001 Pick-up Truck) be deemed “surplus” and sent to state auction for disposal. Seconded by Selectman  
179 Grella. Vote 4-0 Selectman D’Angelo pointed out that the cost of repairs is greater than the blue book  
180 value of the surplus vehicles.

181  
182 **g) Hawkers & Vendors**

183 Selectman D’Angelo moved to grant a Hawkers & Peddlers permit to Jared Davies/Roof Cleaning  
184 Perfection effective from March through October 2014. Seconded by Selectman Grella. Vote 4-0

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186 **h) Right-to-Know – No updates to report.**

187  
188 **i) Stormwater Coalition – No updates to report.**

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190 **VIII. Old and New Business**

191 Selectman Grella provided an update on where equipment and playground could be moved. Both the Alice  
192 Town lot and property behind the skating rink are unsuitable. Work continues and a third location (Wilkins  
193 Field) is currently being looked at.

194  
195 Liz Overholt indicated her concern about a rumor that has been circulating regarding the Fourth of July  
196 Parade Committee not being cooperative in discussions regarding road construction. She would like the  
197 rumor corrected since it is not true. Chairman Brew noted that both the committee and the schools have  
198 been very cooperative.

199  
200 **IX. Non-Public Session**

201 Selectman D’Angelo moved to enter non-public session at 7:40 p.m. pursuant to NH RSA 91-A:3 II(b),  
202 seconded by Vice Chair Akillian. Roll Call: Akillian-yes, Brew-yes, Grella-yes, D’Angelo-yes. Vote was  
203 unanimous.

204  
205 Selectman Grella motioned to exit non public session. Seconded by Selectman D’Angelo. Roll Call:  
206 Akillian-yes, D’Angelo-yes, Brew-yes, Grella-yes. The board came out of public at 8:35 PM.

207  
208 Chairman Brew announced that no votes were taken and no decisions made in non public. Selectman  
209 Akillian moved to adjourn at 8:35 PM. All board members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at  
210 8:35 PM.