

1 **Amherst School Board**
2 **Tuesday, August 27th, 2013**

3
4 **ATTENDANCE**

5
6 Amherst School Board

7 Peg Bennett, Lucienne Foulks, Amy Facey

8
9 Administrative Team

10 Peter Warburton, Gerry St. Amand, Porter Dodge, Betty Shankel, Renea Sparks

11
12 Minute Taker

13 Beth Penney

14
15 **PUBLIC HEARING** – to accept a donation

16 Ms. Bennett opened the public hearing at 6:32pm.

17 Ms. Bennett said the hearing was for two donations from the Amherst Junior Women's
18 Club for Wilkins and for Clark.

19 Ms. Shankel stated that one of the donations is over \$5,000 so the board has to hold a
20 Public Hearing to receive the money.

21 No public had any comments.

22 Ms. Bennett closed the hearing at 6:34pm.

23 **CALL TO ORDER**

24 Ms. Bennett called the meeting to order at 6:34pm.

25 **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

26 Principals' reports

27 Ms. Foulks remarked on how nice the foyer looks at AMS.

28 The board discussed the buildings and the 47 student increase in enrollment from what
29 was predicted.

30 Ms. Foulks congratulated to Patty Wons for being honored at a DOE conference in DC.

31 Mr. Dodge stated that Ms. Wons was brought by the state DOE to present about RTI
32 because she knows so much about RTI.

33 Mr. Warburton stated that AMS is getting lots of state and national recognition for RTI

34 and many schools are coming this fall to visit AMS to learn about RTI.

35 **PUBLIC TIME**

36 Dave and Molly Dix spoke to the board as representatives of the Amherst Soccer Club.
37 They would like to put temporary lighting on the Bean field because it is dangerous for
38 players who practice into the fall. The lights would be there from the end of September
39 to November from 6pm-7:30pm. The lights would be taken off the field at the end of the
40 season. They had already presented to the Board of Selectman last night with the
41 recreation director and the selectman gave them permission to come to the school board.
42 The next step is to present to the zoning/planning board at their next meeting.

43 Ms. Bennett stated that they had missed the September deadline so the next
44 zoning/planning board meeting would be Oct. 2nd. There is some work that needs be
45 done before then.

46 Mr. Miner stated that the high voltage power lines are 240,000V and there are restrictions
47 from PSNH about items being placed with in a radius of the power lines and the height of
48 the items. They would need PSNH's approval because they have an agreement with
49 PSNH. They also need to also consider the neighbors. The neighbors will be the biggest
50 challenge because of noise and light issues. He recommends making personal contact
51 with each neighbor. They need to consult with PSNH regardless of what the zoning board
52 says.

53 Mr. Dix stated that they will propose a layout and will solicit the neighbors for feedback.
54 The lighting is only for practice so the placement of the lights is flexible.

55 Ms. Bennett stated that they should meet to firm up the details and work together to be on
56 the agenda for the next planning board meeting. She asked for a motion tonight to get
57 this item on the planning board agenda for Oct. 2nd.

58 **Ms. Facey made a motion to support the application and allow Peg Bennett as**
59 **school board chair to sign the Non-Residential Site Plan application as property**
60 **owner to amend the Bean fields site plan to include outdoor lighting. Ms. Foulks**
61 **seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.**

62

63 **CONSENT AGENDA**

64 **Ms. Facey made a motion to accept the consent agenda containing Minutes from**
65 **May 23, 2013, Unanticipated Revenue- Donation to Student Activities- Amherst**
66 **Junior Women's Club- \$2,737.41, Unanticipated Revenue- Donation to Student**
67 **Activities- Amherst Junior Women's Club- \$6,043.83, Budget transfers, and the**
68 **Treasurer's reports, May 2013, June 2013, July 2013. Ms. Foulks seconded the**
69 **motion and the vote was unanimous.**

70 **DISCUSSION ITEM**

71 SAU #39 Budget Advisory Committee appointment

72 Ms. Shankel stated that this was just a reminder and should be on the agenda for
73 September.

74 Mr. Warburton stated that he would put this on the agenda for September.

75 **ACTION ITEMS**

76 DOE25/MS25

77 Ms. Shankel explained the two documents, which are the same and show the close out of
78 the books for the districts and the SAU. These documents need to be to the Department
79 of Revenue by the end of September because these documents help to set the tax rates.
80 These are the un-audited results and the audit will happen in the fall and the auditors
81 report will be given to the board in December. There was a \$398,378 surplus from
82 \$182,000 increase in revenue and \$215,000 from under expenditures. The voters
83 approved \$80,000 to go into the Expendable Trust, so \$318,378 will go back to the
84 taxpayers. The costs per pupil increases are because of declining enrollment. The cost
85 per pupil is flat lining in the elementary school and but the declining enrollment is now
86 impacting the cost per pupil at AMS.

87 **Ms. Foulks made a motion to authorize the school board chair, the superintendent**
88 **and the board members to sign DOE25/ MS25. Ms. Facey seconded the motion.**

89 Ms. Facey asked for information on the cost per pupil because the Amherst District is
90 high, when looking at comparable towns.

91 Ms. Shankel stated that she has done some research and it is hard to find districts like
92 Amherst. She explained that Hollis Brookline and Hollis and Brookline are also a Multi-
93 district SAU and they all go into a cooperative high school. Their schools are k-6 for
94 elementary and 7th and 8th grade are at the high school. It is hard to compare because they
95 do not have a middle school. The 5th and 6th graders in Amherst have added benefits
96 because they attend at a middle school. Merrimack has 6th, 7th, and 8th in one school, but
97 they are a larger district and K-12 is in one SAU. There are many large differences, so
98 you cannot compare apples to apples. We will compare ourselves and will have the
99 discussions. Ms. Shankel is working to contact other business administrators to get
100 information that is not on websites. Amherst also has more square footage than required
101 by NH DOE.

102 Ms. Bennett stated that she and Ms. Shankel started working on the cost per pupil
103 comparison this summer and Ms. Shankel has dove into more depth the last two weeks.
104 When the work is complete there will be a presentation and discussion.

105 **The vote was unanimous.**

106 **INFORMATIONAL**

107 Bill Johnson Diamond at Spalding Field – Saturday, Sept. 7th at noon

108 Mr. Warburton discussed the sad event on August 11 and thanked Jerry, Meg, and Janet
109 for how they handled the situation and helped the community.

110 Mr. Warburton stated that they are naming the diamond at Spaulding Field. Mr. Miner
111 designed the sign to look similar to the town’s other signs. There are two options: have
112 one sign only or two separate signs. September 7th will be the naming and maybe they
113 will have a small game.

114 The board discussed the sign and the issue that there are two fields. The signs should
115 separate so when the other diamond is named another sign can be added.

116 Mr. Warburton asked Mr. Miner to speak to Jim O’Mara about the separation and then
117 will move forward with getting the signs made.

118 The board discussed if in the future they wanted to put the sign on the backstop they
119 could do that. The Board thanked Mr. Miner and asked him to contact Jim Hendrix.

120 Mike Akillian spoke to the board about the progress of the Board of Selectan’s (BOS)
121 work. Tomorrow a press release will go out discussing the weekly BOS meetings starting
122 after Labor Day where each department head will present to the selectman their budget
123 plan and extended plans. The press release will give the dates of specific presentations.
124 These presentations will start September 9th and go for 8wks. The BOS would like input
125 from the citizens about what other forum the selectman should discuss these presentations
126 with. The departments are also working with the strategic planning board and they are
127 working to present 4 strategic goals. This is a multi-year process, but they have had great
128 progress in last 3 months. The BOS would like to compare plans with the schools at some
129 point. There is no easy way to work as a town, because towns are not set-up that way. It
130 is hard to have conversations as a town.

131 Ms. Bennett stated that the morning’s presentation to kick off the year was great. There
132 was good energy in the room. Teachers seemed to be excited to be back and show casing
133 their students when ever they can is great. Teachers should be proud.

134 **Ms. Foulks made a motion to go into NON-PUBLIC SESSION – RSA 91-A:3 II.**
135 **(a)(b)(c) at 7:11pm. Ms. Facey seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous.**

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