

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
ADVISORY BOARD – SPECIAL MEETING  
APRIL 11, 2011 – 7:04 PM.  
FIRE DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE ROOM – PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

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PRESENT: Bill Johnson, Chair, Meredith Fagan, Jaime Piedrafite, Belden Divito, Joe Oliveira, Duncan Phye, Doug Briggs, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. Ron Reed was not in attendance.

Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. and stated that the first order of business was a Reserve Fund Transfer request from the Town Clerk to cover the election for Briggs in the amount of \$3,000. Divito motioned to approve and was seconded by Piedrafite. All in favor.

The next order of business was the discussion on the FY12 Budget. Briggs stated that the notables were the contractual increases for the Police, Fire and Dispatch as well as one non-union employee. He also noted that the increase in the DPW line was due to placing the transfer station budget in this line where the revenues will offset the increase. It was noted that there were no more revolving funds and Briggs stated that the problem with these were the lack of visibility. Johnson stated that he was happy that they were no longer in existence.

There was a short discussion on the Lake Association funds and also on the increase in the Animal Control budget line.

At this point Briggs began the discussion on the ATM Warrant articles.  
Recommendation were as follows:

**Article 1 - Yes**

**Article 2 - Yes** – Briggs gave a brief history on what had transpired with the School and Jeff Wulfson of the DOE. More discussion followed on the importance of the vote on the Statutory Method. He suggested that they pass over the capital article (#16) if the District Method is voted. Johnson stated that they should leave the capital article as is and vote on Article 6 which is the override. It was noted that Ed Vitone would give a presentation at Town Meeting on this issue.

**Article 3 – Yes** – Briggs noted that this includes the Statutory Method for the school. There was some discussion on the Town Clerk’s salary and longevity stipend. He also noted that he added an additional \$25,000 in the Reserve Fund under the Advisory Board budget line due to the uncertainty in fuel costs.

**Articles 4 & 5 – Yes** – Some discussion followed on the Water and Sewer budgets including issues that are being worked out on the billing. Briggs also noted that he was going out to bid on the Water Treatment plant by the end of the month. Rates were also discussed and he noted that he was presently working with the City of Gardner on a joint heating oil bid which would include the School District and the towns of Winchendon and Westminster.

**Article 6 – No** – School Override article

**Article 7 – Yes** – Customary article for Light Department

**Article 8 – Yes** – Customary article for Treasurer to borrow

**Article 9 – Yes** – Briggs noted that they spent \$20,000 last year and earned \$180,000 so this is money well spent.

**Article 10 – Yes** – Customary article.

**Article 11 – Yes** – Customary article Chapter 90

**Article 12 – Yes** – There was a short discussion on the Cushing Trust Fund.

**Article 13 – Yes** – Briggs stated that this article was to pay fees, principal and interest.

**Article 14 – Yes** – Briggs stated that there were three invoices to be paid.

**Article 15 – Yes** – Briggs gave some history on the Quinn Bill issue noting that they were waiting for the verdict from the Supreme Court. He stated we were setting \$45,000 aside in case it is judged against us and if we win, we get the money back in free cash.

**Article 16 – Yes** – Briggs noted that the amounts listed in this article may vary a little. There was a short discussion on the Town Hall roof repair portion.

**Article 17 – Yes** – Briggs noted that there would be two vehicles traded in when this new vehicle is purchased and that the funds would be 50% from Water and 50% from Sewer.

**Article 18 – Yes** – Briggs noted that the School Capital Items would total \$33,813.

**Article 19 – Yes** – It was noted that this was a correction resulting from the last meeting.

**Article 20 – Yes** – There was a short discussion on this article submitted by the Planning Board.

**Article 21 – Yes** – There was a short discussion on the funds for the Waterways Improvement and how they are expended.

**Article 22 – Yes** – Briggs explained this article and the reasoning behind it. He noted that the Light Department does a lot for the Town and that this would give them the ability to expedite a contractual agreement with a solar provider by entering into a PPA (Purchase Power of Agreement). He added that Stan Herriott is doing a lot of work on this particular solar project and that this is a good opportunity. It was noted that the liability would stay with the Town as far as the Transfer Station and the monitoring of gasses.

**Article 23 – Yes** – Everyone agreed that this was important to ensure a great celebration for the Town's 250<sup>th</sup>.

This discussion ended at 9:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator