

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
UPSTAIRS AT TOWN HALL  
MONDAY, APRIL 23, 2012, 6:30 PM

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In attendance – Bill Johnson, Chair, Duncan Phyfe, Vice Chair, Gail Dumont, Secretary and Jaime Piedrafite. Also present: Doug Briggs, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

At 6:36 p.m. Bill Johnson called the meeting to order and noted that they were meeting to mainly review and vote to recommend the articles on the May 5, 2012 Annual Town Meeting warrant.

Johnson noted their first item of business was the approval of minutes from their April 17, 2012 Meeting. ***Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve and was seconded by Jaime Piedrafite. Motion was unanimous.***

Johnson noted that they had already approved the Reserve Fund Transfer to the DPW at their last meeting.

He then began the review of the articles for the Annual Town Meeting.

He stated that Articles 1 through 8 would be voted as a Consent Calendar as was done at the last Annual Town Meeting. There were no questions or concerns on consent calendar articles or on Article 9, which was the FY13 budget.

Article 10 – the school override – Briggs explained that a new assessment had dropped the override amount to \$44,697 and that they would be leaving the article on as is but they may change the motion. He asked the school committee if they received the Senate’s funding would they give us the \$44,697 back if we came up with the funding in the Town’s budget. He noted that they would be discussing this from now until Town Meeting and would also contact Westminster. Phyfe asked if wording could be added to the article that they would use this additional funding to support hiring two new 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teachers and Briggs stated that we could not do this. He also added that the Town has a few different options to come up with the additional funds.

Articles 11 through 15 – no questions or concerns were brought up. Briggs did note that Article 15, which was for the School Capital items had to be separate from the Town’s Capital article. He added that the School hasn’t spent anything as of this date from the capital item articles from the previous two meetings.

Articles 16 and 17 – no questions or concerns

Article 18 – to rescind the Quinn bill – Briggs stated that the Police Union had signed a memorandum of agreement with education incentives to phase out the Town’s share of

the Quinn Bill which would be comparable. He stated that this would mean \$60,000 in free cash for next year.

Article 19 – Regional School Agreement amendments – There was a short discussion on this article.

Article 20 – So. Station – Both Johnson and Piedrafite agreed that this building should be sold, not leased.

Article 21 – Solar Project – no questions or concerns were brought up.

Article 22 – Purchase of land for DPW relocation – Briggs stated that it was 17 acres on Williams and Turnpike Roads and that he did a fair market value assessment and just put in a bid today and noted that they are aware of the eminent domain possibility. He added that the money would come from either the capital or stabilization funds. He also noted that Marshall Dennis had walked the property and would be reporting back to him.

Article 23 – To grant release of Town interest in parcel of land – Briggs stated that Town Counsel added this to the warrant and that it was a small parcel which was left over from a development and an abutter wanted to purchase it.

Article 24 – Disposition of Humvee – Johnson noted that because the Firefighters Association put up the original funds to purchase the Humvee, it should be returned to them.

Gail Dumont questioned why the VMS lease article was not on the warrant and Briggs explained that a Committee was being formed to look at the future of the building. Johnson noted that no matter what the final determination was, it would be a lengthy process. Briggs also added that he had some concerns regarding the lack of funds coming to the Town from the North Country Sustainability Group.

***Johnson asked for a motion to approve/recommend the articles and Piedrafite so moved and was seconded by Phyfe. Motion was unanimous.***

***At 7:28 p.m. Dumont motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Phyfe. Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia Turcotte  
Assistant to the Town Administrator