

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
TRAINING ROOM AT PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014

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Advisory Board members in attendance – Bill Johnson, Chair, Joe Oliveira, Gail Dumont, Bruce Whitney, and Jaime Piedrafite. Also in attendance; Doug Briggs, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

Bill Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

**Articles 1 thru 8** - He stated that the first order of business was to review the May 6, 2014 Annual Town Meeting warrant. He stated that the first 8 articles were standard annual articles and are approved as a Consent Agenda. *Bruce Whitney motioned to recommend Articles 1 thru 8 and was seconded by Joe Oliveira. Vote was unanimous.*

**Article 9** – Doug Briggs stated that the only change in the budget for FY15 was the DPW line which was lowered by \$10,000. He stated that the Transfer Station landfill monitoring charge was listed twice and the new total budget is \$15,008,083. Mr. Johnson stated that a column was added with explanations on any increase or decrease for every line. He noted that this would make things go more smoothly and he added that he would offer up explanations and expand on what's there. He noted that the handout would be on the website with all the information. *Jaime Piedrafite motioned to recommend Article 9, the FY15 budget at a total of \$15,008,083. Bruce Whitney seconded and the vote was unanimous.*

**Article 10** – Doug Briggs explained the increase in the Water budget stating that it was in the Salary and Wages line which was distributed as 2/3 in the Water budget and 1/3 in the Sewer budget in order to relieve pressure on the Sewer side. He stated that the Water budget is getting pay back of the old balance owed from Flo Chemical. There was a short discussion on the Far Hills meter issue which was found to be defective and caused an issue in the Winchendon line. *Joe Oliveira made the motion to recommend Article 10 and was seconded by Bruce Whitney. Vote was unanimous.*

**Article 11** – Doug Briggs stated that the decrease was in the Salary and Wages line. He stated they were informed by Gardner that they were required to do some improvements on their system and they want Ashburnham to pay their share. He added that this also coincides with our agreement which is up in FY15. He stated that the Sewer rate has been increased to \$11.50. *Joe Oliveira motioned to recommend Article 11 and was seconded by Bruce Whitney. Vote was unanimous.*

**Article 12** – Doug Briggs stated that there were no changes to this article. A discussion followed on road repairs. Mr. Briggs stated that they had \$100,000 in this capital plan article, \$360,000 in Chapter 90 funds and at the fall town meeting we would have another \$300,000 or \$400,000. Bill Johnson stated that we may have an excess in free cash this year and that it would be discussed at another meeting. *Bruce Whitney motioned to recommend Article 12 and Jaime Piedrafite seconded. Vote was unanimous.*

**Article 13** – Doug Briggs stated that this was the DPW facility article which would generate a tax increase of \$.70 in FY16. He noted that if approved it would be a 40 year loan but no grant would be available. Bill Johnson discussed the mailer that was just received by each resident. A discussion followed on the proposed cost of the facility. Bill Johnson noted that this would be the last significant building project in Town. *Jaime Piedrafite motioned to recommend Article 13 and was seconded by Joe Oliveira. Four in favor, one opposed.*

**Article 14** – Doug Briggs stated that this article was to approve the acceptance of a bench from the White family in memory of their son which would be placed somewhere in Winchester Park. He added that the family will work with the Parks & Rec Committee on a location. *Gail Dumont made the motion to recommend Article 14 and was seconded by Bill Johnson. Vote was unanimous.*

**Article 15** – Doug Briggs stated that this is the Conservation Commission land donation which was in the agreement with the Solar Project. He stated that it is mostly wetlands and it is supported by the Conservation Commission. *Joe Oliveira motioned to recommend Article 15 and was seconded by Gail Dumont. Vote was unanimous.*

**Article 16** – Mr. Briggs stated that this was a 2,500 sq. ft. parcel of land that is adjacent to Val Daigle's property and this article will give the Board of Selectmen possession of the parcel and once it is, then they will decide how to proceed in the best interest of the Town. *Joe Oliveira motioned to recommend Article 16 and was seconded by Bill Johnson. Vote was unanimous.*

**Article 17** – Doug Briggs stated that this was the marijuana bylaw. Bill Johnson stated that they would wait until the Town Meeting to recommend as they haven't seen the wording. *Unanimous TBD.*

**Article 18** – Mr. Briggs stated that this was the solar bylaw and Bill Johnson noted that they would wait to recommend until the Town Meeting on this one as well. *Unanimous TBD.*

**Article 19** – Doug Briggs stated that this article was a citizens' petition and he suggested that the Advisory Board vote "no". *Gail Dumont motioned to not recommend Article 19 and was seconded by Bruce Whitney. Vote was unanimous.*

**Article 20** – Doug Briggs stated that this article was a citizens' petition and he suggested that the Advisory Board vote "no". *Bill Johnson motioned to not recommend Article 20 and was seconded by Joe Oliveira. Vote was unanimous.*

**Article 21** – Doug Briggs stated that this article was on the warrant just in case there was any money not appropriated from other capital articles. *Gail Dumont motioned to recommend Article 21 and was seconded by Bruce Whitney. Vote was unanimous.*

Bill Johnson noted that they needed to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2014 meeting. *Bruce Whitney motioned to approve the minutes from the March 11, 2014 meeting and was seconded by Joe Oliveira. Vote was unanimous.*

Bill Johnson also noted that the Capital Planning Committee would be meeting with the Board of Selectmen on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall in the upstairs meeting room.

*At 7:50 p.m. Bill Johnson made the motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Joe Oliveira. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia Turcotte  
Assistant to the Town Administrator