

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING
MARCH 22, 2006
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE, TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: Jonathan Dennehy, Chairman, Mark Carlisle, Clerk, Ron Reed, Member and Kevin Paicos, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Administrative Assistant.

Dennehy called the meeting to order at 2:06 p.m. and stated that he had hoped that this meeting wouldn't have been necessary but that now decisions had to be made.

Dennehy stated that a vote was taken by the town for \$6.5M to build the Public Safety Building and we still have the ability to build this facility. He stated that this is a fresh start and that we should concentrate on what is necessary for the task at hand. He added that everyone agrees that this is needed.

Dennehy inquired as to how much money was still available and Paicos stated that there is approximately \$5.5M remaining. He added that the \$1.5M Cushing is giving the Town, \$25K each year, is not really usable and Reed pointed out that the intent was to help offset the Town's debt payments each year.

Reed inquired about the \$153k proceeds from the sale of the fire station and Paicos said that it was voted at Town Meeting to be used by the Board as they see fit, that there was really no mention that it should be used solely for the Public Safety Facility. Paicos stated that if need be he will put in an article for the Town Meeting.

Dennehy made the motion to disband the existing Public Safety Building Committee and to re-form the committee with some new members.

Carlisle stated that he had a concept to consider. He stated that maybe we could purchase the hardware store as there is space to renovate and then move the town barn to the present site. Reed stated that the intent was to get the facility out of the center of town and we should build a \$5.5m building.

John Enright, a resident, asked if we had exhausted state funding and Carlisle stated that it can't be done and we did ask to not have to use prevailing wages. Reed stated that we had two legal opinions on this already and Dennehy added that the legislature would never agree with that.

Reed then seconded Dennehy's motion to disband the existing Public Safety Building Committee and to re-form the committee with some new members. Motion carried.

Dennehy asked that anyone interested should come forward by sending a memo or email.

Dennehy stated that this is not to cast disbursement on the members of the committee because they worked really hard. He stated that this is an effort to move forward, think about it carefully and bring in new members to bring new ideas. He added that this is an excellent opportunity to learn from the mistakes of the past and to bring the entire community in every step of the way. He stated that there's not a lot of time as there is a degree of urgency as far as Cushing and the use of their building. He also stated that it's been two years from the first vote and that costs are going up.

Chris Gagnon suggested that we should call a big public meeting for brainstorming and that the result

would be a committee and the voters may like to be included to give their ideas.

Dennehy stated that we should run with that idea and have the committee set up a public hearing.

Paicos stated that many people have already asked to be on the committee. He inquired as to a timeframe. Chris stated that he would put it on Channel 8. Dennehy stated that they should be reviewed at the next Board of Selectmen's meeting on April 3rd and all requests should be submitted by Friday, March 31st at 1:00 p.m.

Donna Brooks stated that the meeting format that Chris Gagnon suggested was highly used and highly effective and can be done either before the committee is formed or after.

Dennehy stated that hopefully we will get good quality people to serve in order to get as many ideas as we can. He added that we can put our creative thinking caps on and hope that the construction costs don't rise.

Reed noted that we will build a \$5.5M facility, but it will be 100% better than what we have now.

John Enright asked if a new design would be drafted and Dennehy responded that it would.

On another issue, Paicos stated that the tax rate is certified and the notice will be mailed to us tomorrow. He added that bills will be out either next week or the week after.

With no further discussion, at 2:50 p.m., Carlisle motioned to adjourn and Reed seconded.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Turcotte
Administrative Assistant