

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MAY 15, 2006
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE, TOWN HALL**

This meeting was aired live on local cable television Channel 8.

PRESENT: Jonathan Dennehy, Chair, Mark Carlisle, Chris Gagnon, Kevin Paicos, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Administrative Assistant.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Dennehy called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and read the agenda. Carlisle moved to accept the agenda, Gagnon seconded and the motion was carried.

II. PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

A. **Board of Selectmen reorganization and introduction of new member, Chris Gagnon:** Dennehy welcomed Chris Gagnon as the newest member of the Board of Selectmen. He also stated that each year the Board of Selectmen has to reorganize after the election and that it is usual for the new member to be named Clerk. Carlisle made the motion to assign Chris Gagnon as Clerk and was seconded by Dennehy.

Dennehy then stated that they had to decide who would be chair. Carlisle stated that he would like Dennehy to continue as chair. Carlisle motioned to have Jonathan Dennehy to remain as chair and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

Town Administrator's Update: Kevin Paicos started his update by reporting that the Pages Beach project is finally underway and that due to a few unforeseen problems, more money may be needed.

Paicos stated that the Boutwell's Garage issue resolution is progressing and stated that he met with the 21J Board and discussed the two bids received for the water main extension. He stated that the low bid is \$1.3M and they are currently reviewing the bid. Dennehy stated that if we can get the contractors to submit their invoices directly to the 21J Board, this would be something that had never been done before. Paicos stated that the hardest part is to convince the contractor to do this with all these uncertainties and no contract in place.

Dennehy once again thanked Senator Brewer for his continued support of this project and for his promise to get this paid through the 21J Fund. He added that Rep. Rice has called inquiring about the status of this project and to give his support if needed. Dennehy stated that the Town has both Senator Brewer and Rep. Rice behind us on this. He added that the media hasn't given the full story on this and that he would call the residents on Fitchburg Road to let them know what's going on. Paicos stated that the hope is that they will break ground in July on this project.

Paicos then touched on the Dymek 40B Project stating that fees are the issue right now, adding that some fees have to be paid.

Paicos reported that the Factory Pond Dam is being inspected on a daily basis during the heavy rainstorms we've been having. He added that it looks fine and is probably more stable than last summer now that the dirt is in the core.

Dennehy stated that he is worried about the other dams in Town and Paicos added that the state will be out to check them.

Paicos then reported on the Town Hall Renovation project stating that right now there are three options: Option 1 – renting the basement of the hardware store; Option 2 – trailers; and Option 3 – the old library. He added that the committee has the authority now for the money to come out of the building funds per a ruling from bond counsel.

Dennehy stated that once the committee has fully investigated all the options, they should come before the Board on TV to discuss. Paicos stated that the committee would like to do that.

Paicos stated that the cost to renovate the piano museum may be prohibitive and money cannot be spent out of the bond proceeds to renovate. He added that he would work on a cost benefit memo outlining the expense to rehab the building.

Dennehy stated that there should be a full discussion at the next BOS meeting.

Paicos thanked the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Board for their support of the Personnel By-Law.

Paicos reported on the Highway Garage relocation stating that an engineer will look at and figure out where to move the Highway Garage and would be back sometime this summer with the results.

Paicos stated that he expects that within three years all capital building expenses should be done.

Paicos noted that he would be out on vacation Tuesday, May 16th and Wednesday, May 17th.

- C. Public Safety Building Committee update:** Dennehy stated that an update on the Public Safety Building Committee progress would be an agenda item for each Board of Selectmen meeting.

Chris Gagnon stated that the Public Safety Building Committee held their first meeting on May 3rd and he was nominated as chair but as a non-voting member. He added that this would leave 8 voting members.

Gagnon went on to state that at the meeting they went through the timeline and made a short to-do list. He added that on Wednesday of the last week a few members met with the project manager but that there wasn't a quorum present. He added that many questions were answered and they went to the hardware store and the present building site. He stated that they are making a list of the pros and cons of both sites. He also stated that the committee wanted to get input from the public and has extended an invitation to the Focus Committee and the Town Hall Renovation Committee to meet on June 1st at 7:00 p.m. upstairs at the Town Hall to discuss sharing the Project Manager as a feasible solution and that they want to decide this before the end of June. Gagnon added that they should get a lot of input, both pros and cons, from this public meeting.

Carlisle inquired as to the architect and Gagnon stated that they have a meeting with him on the following Wednesday. Gagnon also stated that a schedule of space needs study would be done by the representatives of the police and fire departments that are on the committee. He stated that he

really wants to get the three groups together as this would result in some great ideas.

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and vote on Special Town Election date:** Dennehy stated that the Special Town Election had four questions. They include \$170k for road repair, the fire truck, and two questions for the schools. He added that this election needs to coincide with Westminster. Paicos stated that Westminster's election is on Tuesday, June 20th.

Gagnon motioned to set Tuesday, June 20th as the date for the Special Town Election and to place the 4 questions on the ballot as written and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion carried unanimously.

Dennehy noted that the election would be held at the J.R. Briggs Elementary School from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and that everyone should please come out to vote.

Paicos went over the four ballot questions which included 1) fire truck debt exclusion; 2) customary question for road repair \$170k; 3) capital exclusion for school of \$150k; and \$1m bonding for 3 major capital items for the school which would be a wash tax wise.

- B. Approval of Sewer Assessment Subordination Agreement for property at 9 South High Street:** Carlisle motioned to approve the Subordination Agreement for property at 9 South High Street and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 18, 2006 – Regular Meeting

Carlisle motioned to approve the April 18, 2006 meeting minutes and was seconded by Dennehy. Motion carried.

B. April 24, 2006 – Regular Meeting w/Advisory Board

Carlisle motioned to approve the April 24, 2006 meeting and was seconded by Dennehy. Motion carried.

C. May 6, 2006 – Special Joint Meeting w/Advisory Board

Carlisle motioned to approve the minutes of May 6, 2006 and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

Dennehy announced that a Hazardous Waste Day will be held on Saturday, June 10th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Highway Garage.

Dennehy also announced Annual Downtown Days would be held on Saturday, June 24th at Winchester Park and details will follow. He added that this is a full day of fun for the family.

Dennehy noted the list of meetings scheduled for the Public Safety Building Committee as follows: May 17, May 25, and June 1 (combined meeting w/public).

Dennehy then announced that on Sunday, May 21st at 3:00 p.m. at Oakmont there would be a ceremony for David Nims where they would be naming the library in his honor.

He then wanted to remind everyone of the Memorial Day Services which would be held on Monday May 29th starting at 8:45 a.m. where everyone will meet at the top of Meeting House Hill and proceed down Cushing Street and to the Town Hall for the speeches and ceremony. He also noted that at 1:00 p.m. the Legion would have a chicken barbeque.

Dennehy noted that the next Board of Selectmen meeting would be held on June 5th.

Paicos asked the Board to approve his being appointed as a volunteer EMT for the Fire Department. Carlisle motioned to approve this appointment and Gagnon seconded. Motion carried. Paicos stated that there's a problem during the day where they're short and he added he is happy to help and learn from experts.

At this time, Wayne Adams, a resident asked the Board to vote to approve having an emergency above-ground pipe installed on Fitchburg Road because he feels it is needed. Dennehy stated that they could ask the Water-Sewer Department about options and also the contractor about requirements while they are working there. Paicos stated that this is doable but there are questions needed to be answered.

Gagnon wanted it stated that the Water-Sewer Department has requested input as to the DPW position and Paicos stated that they will be invited once the discussions begin.

Adams again questioned the water situation on Fitchburg Road and if anybody was defending the responsible parties and Dennehy responded that the Town is doing everything possible at this time to resolve this problem. He added that once the DEP comes in, they're in charge and the Town takes a back seat. He noted that he has seen no indication that the Boutwell's aren't doing what is required. Adams asked if a date could be given when they will vote on the above-ground piping and Dennehy stated that this would have to be looked into first. At this point, Paicos suggested that the conversation be terminated immediately. Dennehy stated that he would report back about the temporary pipe.

At this time it was noted that the Town Administrator had been mistaken about the need for an executive session.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:47 p.m., Carlisle motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Sylvia Turcotte