

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES  
SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING – OCTOBER 20, 2006 – 9:00 A.M.  
SELECTMEN’S OFFICE, TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: Jonathan Dennehy, Chair, Chris Gagnon, Clerk, Mark Carlisle, and Sylvia Turcotte, Administrative Assistant. Also present, Paul Boushell – Interim Town Administrator.

Dennehy called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. and began by reviewing the orders for military training that had been issued to Kevin Paicos. He added that he had spoken with Kevin Paicos at length and that Kevin had fully briefed Paul Boushell on the major topics in Ashburnham.

Dennehy then proceeded to read Section 7 of the Town Charter which states; “The Town Administrator may designate, subject to approval by the Board of Selectmen, by letter filed with the Town Clerk, a qualified officer of the Town to perform his duties during his temporary absence or disability. In the event of failure of the administrator to make such designation, the Selectmen may, by resolution, designate an officer of the Town to perform the duties of the Administrator until he shall return or his disability shall cease.”

Dennehy stated that Paul Boushell gave his resume to the Board. He added that Paul’s background consisted of serving as Assistant Town Administrator under Kevin Paicos as well as Town Administrator for the Town of Tyngsboro for 8 years and has done consulting for several towns. He added that Kevin Paicos recommends Paul Boushell for this position.

Dennehy noted that Kevin’s orders indicate that he will be gone for a month of training and that he would return to work the week of the Thanksgiving holiday, Monday, November 20<sup>th</sup>. He added that Boushell understands that it may be a shorter or longer time.

Dennehy also stated he is waiting for a memo from Town Counsel, Debbie Phillips, as to the Town’s obligation to Kevin Paicos for military leave. He noted that they are required to hold his position and benefits, but they are not required to pay him other than days of military leave and vacation, comp time, etc. He noted that Paicos has stated he will use comp time, military leave and vacation time, but he is not allowed to use sick time.

Dennehy stated that regarding paying the interim, Paicos says that the money is available under his budget for interim salary. He also noted that if it goes beyond that, they may have to do a reserve fund transfer.

He also added that if they learn he’s not coming back on November 20<sup>th</sup>, they will look at it then. He noted that they have no control over this scenario and that they have to look ahead and keep it in the back of their minds.

Dennehy noted that Norm Thidemann, the previous Interim Town Administrator, was paid on a daily basis, per diem. He added that Norm did a good job for the Town and that it was an open-ended informal relationship. Dennehy stated that he would propose that Boushell work on a weekly basis.

Boushell stated that Paicos suggested he should be here on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with a weekly salary of \$750.00. Dennehy noted that this would come out to a 32 hour a week position.

Gagnon agreed and stated that he should be paid thru payroll with deductions. Boushell stated that he should be covered under the Town’s liability insurance as well.

Gagnon motioned to hire Paul Boushell as Interim Town Administrator for at least 27 days and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion was unanimous.

Dennehy asked if they should convene a Department Head meeting next week and Boushell stated that he would go with whatever the Board was comfortable with but that he had previously met most of the Department Heads and would meet with each of them during the course of the next week or so.

At 9:35 a.m. Gagnon motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Turcotte  
Administrative Assistant