

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
JANUARY 3, 2006
SELECTMEN'S OFFICE, TOWN HALL**

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

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

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Dennehy called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and read the agenda. Carlisle moved to accept the agenda, Reed seconded and the motion was carried.

II. PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

A. **Presentation to Paul Pollastri:** (Paul Pollastri was present) Dennehy began by thanking Paul for his nearly 20 years of service to the Town of Ashburnham. Paicos stated that Paul was one of the most professional people he has worked with and stated that he did try to entice him to stay and that the offer was still open. He went on to say that Paul is a very likeable and pleasant person to work with. Paicos then presented the gift.

Pollastri thanked everyone and stated that he enjoyed his time here and added while he was here he worked with some great people.

B. **Town Administrator's Update:** A copy of the update is attached to these minutes.

Paicos began by asking Dennehy to give a recap on the meeting he had with the 21J Board on December 23rd. Dennehy stated that both he and Senator Brewer gave the presentation to the 21J Board. He stated that this all stems from the Boutwell DEP contamination site which, in order to remedy this situation the Town wants to install public water supply and tie it in to all the properties affected. And in order to accomplish this, the Town is asking for funds through the 21J Board. He added that the 21J Fund is used for the cost of clean-up and is normally funded to an individual not a municipality.

Dennehy stated that the meeting was positive in many ways and they listened and gave suggestions. He added that the 21J direct pay program allows contractors to be paid for work done out of the fund and added that the Boutwell's can't fund this on their own. He also stated that Tighe and Bond was approached but they don't want to wait two years to get paid. He added that the 21J Board wants to work with the Town and would give written assurances and would find a contractor that will do this.

Carlisle stated that we should find out what towns have done this in the past through the 21J Board. Paicos stated that they have done 6 projects like this but they terminated the program now. He added that we need to locate a contractor but they will want an assurance that they won't be stuck with a big bill. He also stated that the 21J Board has reopened this program for us and this is a big thing. Paicos stated that before the end of this month we will get this going.

Dennehy stated that with the efforts of Senator Brewer, he is very encouraged and added that he was very grateful to the Senator for his guidance. Reed asked if the financing could be done similar to the Bush Hill situation and Carlisle stated that some of the costs could be more than the \$1.3m that the 21J Fund would cover.

Dennehy stated that there will be costs incurred but this will benefit the Town, not just the participants. Reed stated that it should be decided by the end of January.

Paicos stated that the 21J Board hasn't had this type of situation before where a Town is in the middle so this may need special legislation. Dennehy stated that he is cautiously optimistic but there is a lot of work to be done.

Paicos stated that he is hoping that the Non-Union Personnel By-Law would be finished and ready for the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Board to look at and peruse by the end of January.

Paicos stated that the Tax Classification Hearing has been advertised for January 17th and that we are finally close to setting the tax rate.

Paicos noted that his Revenue & Expense Forecast would be ready this week. He stated that he needed one more piece from the Town Accountant and added that this report would be very useful. He added that he was worried about the energy budgets but enough money was set aside to cover this in the reserve fund.

Paicos stated that he has set up meetings with each department head to go over their budgets and he should have it all set by the end of the next week.

Reed noted that he strongly encourages the Advisory Board members to attend school meetings on the budget.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Further discussion on the Special Town Meeting and the Public Safety Building Project:**
Paicos stated that the committee was meeting the following night and there wasn't really anything to report at this time.

Carlisle did state that an Information Public Hearing was scheduled for Wednesday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Overlook Library. He added that this would be a full blown presentation and would be taped as well. He also stated that the next meeting would probably be held on Saturday, January 14th and this would be posted as well.

Carlisle added that in the meantime, people are invited to contact all committee members with any questions they may have.

Dennehy stated that people with questions on this project should please show up at the informational hearings and Carlisle added that he would ask people to go see the Police Chief or the Fire Chief who would be happy to answer their questions.

Dennehy added that he hopes there is a good turnout at the two hearings planned.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. **December 19, 2005 – Regular Meeting**

Carlisle motioned to approve these minutes and was seconded by Reed. Motion carried.

B. **December 19, 2005 – Executive Session (P.M.)**

Carlisle motioned to approve these minutes and was seconded by Reed. Motion carried.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

Dennehy stated that the next Board of Selectmen meeting would be held on Tuesday, January 17th due to the Martin Luther King holiday on Monday, January 16th.

Dennehy noted that the Public Safety Building Committee would be meeting on Wednesday, January 4th in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

Dennehy announced the following:

Public Safety Building Information Meeting on Wednesday, January 11th at 7:00 p.m. at the Overlook Library.

Special Town Meeting on Thursday, January 19th at 7:00 p.m. at Overlook and noted that it was not upstairs at the Town Hall as usual because it is too cold at this time of the year.

Special Election on Tuesday, January 24th from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at J.R. Briggs School.

State Primary for Special Election on Tuesday, January 10th from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at J.R. Briggs School.

General Election on Tuesday, February 7th from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at J.R. Briggs School.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Not needed this evening.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:01 p.m., Reed motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Turcotte, Administrative Assistant