

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES  
MARCH 6, 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. Also in attendance were Senator Stephen Brewer as well as many family members and school faculty members who work with Dorene Francis.

At 7:00 p.m. Dennehy called the meeting to order and stated that they would have a Public Service Recognition for Dorene Francis on her outstanding work with the Extended Day Program at the schools. Dennehy read the proclamation (attached) and congratulated Ms. Francis on her achievements.

Senator Brewer congratulated and complimented Ms. Francis for all that she has done for the children in this community. He eloquently stated that Ms. Francis deserves praise as well as our thanks for all that she has done with the Extended Day Program at the schools. He presented her with a certificate of appreciation signed by both he and Senator Antonioni. Ms. Francis was also presented with a lovely bouquet of flowers. A brief adjournment followed.

- I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Dennehy called the meeting to order once again at 7:18 p.m. and read the agenda. Carlisle moved to accept the agenda, Reed seconded and the motion was carried.

Dennehy then announced the introduction of the new Treasurer, Anne Cervantes and also the promotion of Carla Clifford to Tax Collector.

Both Anne and Carla were then sworn in by Town Clerk, Wes Landry. The Board congratulated both of them and wished them well in their new positions.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Discussion and vote on Planning Board appointment:** (Members of the Planning Board as well as Eric Smith, Town Planner were in attendance.) Dennehy stated that he was asked to cover this item on the agenda first.

Dennehy stated that Thomas Ruble has asked to serve on the Planning Board as a replacement for the vacancy made by Bob Salo's resignation. He added that this appointment would be until the next town election in April and that Tom Ruble was nominated at the caucus last week.

Reed motioned to approve the appointment of Thomas Ruble to the Planning Board and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion carried. It was noted that the record should reflect that the Planning Board also voted unanimously on this appointment.

II. PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- B. **Public Hearing – FY06 CDBG Application Discussion:** (Bob Biagi from MRPC was present for this hearing.) At approximately 7:25 p.m. Carlisle motioned to open the Public Hearing and was seconded by Reed. Motion carried.

Dennehy asked Bob Biagi to begin the discussion. Biagi stated that this hearing was held to come up with a community action statement for the FY07 Grant which is due by the end of March.

Biagi stated that they want people to have the ability to stay here in this community and these grants help make it possible. He added that it's used for fixing houses and all types of other items. He went on to say that the Board should take some time to look over the paperwork that they were given at this meeting and then maybe in a week or so, each member could come up with some priorities and the top needs for the community.

Carlisle asked when the deadline was and Biagi stated that March 29th is when it has to be in Boston.

Reed stated that the housing rehab has been very successful in the past and that he would be interested in the development of Whitney Pond for a recreational area. He added that the Rail Trail Committee is in the process of developing the area and that Whitney Pond is at the end of their project. Biagi stated that Whitney Pond would not qualify for this grant.

Reed stated that a list should be put together of what the Town is eligible for from this grant and Biagi stated that the Town should put "all" priorities on the list anyway. Reed stated that Kevin Paicos and Eric Smith should work on this application.

Carlisle stated that affordable housing should be a priority. Biagi responded that the money would be targeted for individual homeowners who qualify. Carlisle added that the key is that we'll take any grant that they have. "If you bring it, we will take it."

Biagi stated that he would meet with Kevin and Eric next week to put this together. Eric noted that he would be happy to work with the Planning Board on this. Biagi stated that the list and application would need to get public approval and Reed stated that a list would be presented at their next meeting.

At 7:47 p.m., Reed motioned to close the public hearing and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion carried.

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

Paicos began by commenting on an issue that had come to his attention recently regarding Section 4 of the Town Charter. He stated that he reviewed the list of elected officials who are serving on other boards and he found that no members are in violation of the Town Charter at this time. He went on to say that he researched this issue with Town Counsel and then issued his letter on the subject as the Town Administrator has a point of authority on some boards and committees. He stated that serving on an ad hoc committee does not constitute a dual office. He also added that the ad hoc committees enrich the community, especially building committees. He noted that he is satisfied that this has been resolved.

Paicos then went over his TA Report, commenting on the most recent 21J Board meeting in Charlestown on February 23rd. He stated that it is important that the 21J Board yielded and gave us some hope that this could happen. He went on to say that the State will not pre-approve

contractor bids but that there could be a possibility if we write a Design Build Specification.

Dennehy stated that he is hoping to present this at the next meeting on April 29th in order to get this pre-approved so that the contractor knows what will be reimbursed. Dennehy also stated that Senator Brewer has been working very hard to get this done for us and to get the legislation passed to be sure there's enough money in the 21J Fund.

Carlisle questioned what funds are available and Dennehy responded that there was no dedicated money for the 21J Fund and that it is done on a case by case basis. Paicos added that third party administrators decide what will be paid and covered. He added that this vote in April is critical.

Carlisle stated that this project has to get done. Paicos stated that we are under the gun to get this done for the April presentation.

Paicos then reported on the status of the Town Hall Roof project stating that the committee was enthusiastic about moving the town staff over to the new addition being constructed by Richie Wright while the Town Hall is renovated. He added that the town hall staff is excited about the potential move and that everyone is pitching in to get this in motion.

Paicos then stated that the ConCom Agent has started part time. Carlisle asked when Westminster would be voting on the shared ConCom Agent and Paicos stated that it would probably be at their Annual Town Meeting in May.

Paicos noted that he has been working on the landfill closure and that the cost will be a lot less than first thought. He stated that DEP has been very helpful, especially John Regan and his staff in the Worcester office, who have been great.

On the Highway Garage, Paicos stated that they need 3 proposals and that they have 2 already and another is coming in a day or two. He added that Bob Fichtel is reviewing the proposals.

Murray Road Rezoning was the next item Paicos touched on, stating that a meeting was held last week with a number of attendees including Mr. Sisson. It was proposed to have this as an article at the ATM to allow Sisson to develop some of the land and maybe postpone the rezoning until an industrial study is done. Carlisle stated that the Town needs to have an inventory of industrial land, finding out what's viable and what's not.

Reed stated that Chapter 40B will force every town to do an inventory of what they have. Paicos stated that an Industrial Citing Plan will do a comprehensive study and they will look at surveys and mapping.

Paicos stated that the FY06 budget has been updated and that Jim Shanahan has done a great job. He stated that the bottom line is that it's not as bad as we first thought. He added that he has a plan to deal with this in a couple of weeks and that modest changes will have to be made.

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Paicos stated that as predicted, so far, the only fly in the ointment to getting the tax rate set is the water deficit from last year and the projected deficit this year. He stated that we need to get something going and it should be okay. He added that the tax bills should go out in the next week or so.

Paicos stated that he just received word that the Monty Tech assessment to the town went down, which is good news.

### III. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- B. Vote on Application for Special One-Day Liquor License:** Dennehy stated that a One-Day Beer and Wine Liquor License was applied for by St. Denis Church for their annual Irish Night supper on March 18th from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m.

Reed motioned to approve the Special Liquor License and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion carried.

- C. Annual Town Meeting Warrant:** Paicos stated that the Board has to officially open the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Dennehy stated that they would open the warrant to have articles submitted and Paicos added that they would close the warrant about 1 month before the meeting date.

Carlisle motioned to open the ATM warrant and was seconded by Reed. Motion carried.

- D. Release of Executive Session Minutes:** Dennehy stated that per Massachusetts law, all minutes are to be released eventually. Reed motioned to approve the Town Administrator's recommendation to release the executive session minutes listed and was seconded by Carlisle. Dennehy read the dates of the minutes to be released and stated that they would be available to the public now.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. February 21, 2006 – Regular Meeting**

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

- B. February 21, 2006 – Executive Session**

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

VI. OTHER MATTERS

Dennehy stated that the next meeting would be held on Monday, March 20, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. and that the Advisory Board will meet on Monday, March 13th at 7:00 p.m.

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VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:42 p.m., Dennehy stated that the Board would enter into Executive Session to deliberate upon matters which, if done in open meeting could detrimentally affect the position of the Town regarding strategy of pending litigation and not to reconvene into regular session.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:44 p.m., Reed motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Turcotte  
Administrative Assistant