

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES  
APRIL 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, and Sylvia Turcotte, Administrative Assistant. Kevin Paicos and Ron Reed were absent.

- 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, Dennehy seconded and the motion was carried.
- II. PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

- A. **Town Administrator's Update:** Dennehy stated that Kevin Paicos was ill this weekend and did not send out an update report and that he was still not well and that was why he was not at the meeting this evening.

Dennehy stated that Paicos has been working hard on the 21J RFB, hoping to pre-approve the financing. He added that Senator Brewer has gone above and beyond and has set up a meeting for Wednesday April 5<sup>th</sup> with members of the DEP, Kevin Paicos and himself regarding possible funds which could be available from EPA. He also stated that he is very thankful for all of Senator Brewer's assistance.

Dennehy stated that he had occasion to speak with the Mayor of Gardner regarding the sewerage issue and he found him to be very gracious and agreeable about the need to meet and discuss this situation further. He added that this was a positive thing.

Dennehy stated that Chapter 90 funds have been released but that he wasn't sure of the amount. He went on to say that the local aid numbers are not known yet so the FY07 budget is being planned around the Governor's proposed numbers. He added that the actual numbers won't be known in time for the Annual Town Meeting.

- III. OLD BUSINESS

**Discussion and vote on Advisory Board request regarding new fire truck ballot question:** Dennehy stated that two years ago the town voted to purchase a new fire truck and that it has finally arrived. He stated that John Hyslop, the chair of the Advisory Board sent a letter to the Selectmen regarding this purchase noting that this was never brought to ballot at the last Annual Town Meeting as a debt exclusion. It was noted that when this was brought up Katie Nunez had stated that there were several different funding options available and somehow it was not put through. He added that there's no doubt that this needs to go out on a ballot and that he would clarify this with the Town Administrator when he returns. He also stated that it would definitely be a debt exclusion not an override.

Dennehy stated that at the next meeting the Board would be voting on the warrant articles for the Town Meeting. He thanked the Advisory Board for their attentiveness.

**Appointment of new Public Safety Building Committee members:** Dennehy stated that the original committee was disbanded after the revote and they asked for persons who would be interested in volunteering to serve on the new committee. He stated that 15 volunteers came forward. He added that they need to have fewer members in order to have a productive committee.

Dennehy stated that he apologizes but that he would not be announcing the appointments at this meeting but he didn't have the time to talk to everyone on the list. He added that some on the list are no longer interested in serving.

He stated that they want to form a committee with willing members and he hoped to get this finalized this week. He stated that this is a difficult task and his hope and goal is to get many members with skills, a working committee. He added that they would make sure that no stone is unturned, that the top priority is a facility that is the best fit for the Town. He stated that his top priority is to get this accomplished.

Chris Gagnon stated that he would ask that they make the committee as large as possible and added that he has seen this function very well and used the Oakmont Building Committee as an example. Dennehy stated that he believes this committee would be different and that no more than 10 people would be better.

Pixie Brennan stated that many of the volunteers on the list have construction experience and they should be selected. Dennehy noted that those who have served on prior committees should also be considered, as well as representatives of the police and fire departments. He added that in order to have a successful committee and to see continuity prior committee members should be considered as well in order to not have to start from scratch. He added that a lot of decisions have to be made.

Dennehy also stated that everyone on the prior committee said no except Chief Barrett. He noted the prior committee had done a lot of research.

Brennan wanted to go on record as stating that 99% of the people in town appreciate all the time and effort the previous committee put forward on this project and Dennehy agreed.

Carlisle stated that the previous committee did what they set out to do and it didn't work out. He stated that when this committee was appointed only four people applied and only three stepped up.

Linc Stiles voiced his opinion by stating that at least three others had wanted to be on the original committee but were not chosen. He asked who was choosing this committee and Dennehy responded that it was the entire Board of Selectmen with input from Kevin Paicos.

Dennehy stated that his goal and perspective is not to have a "side" and to put together a committee that is successful in building a facility that meets the needs of the Town. He added that his job is to help this along and that he would do his best to advice them. Dennehy noted that there would not be a decision at this meeting because the Board hasn't put enough thought into this decision.

Stiles inquired if in the interim, they were looking to do something to alleviate the problems in the meantime. Carlisle responded that two new toilets were put in at the Police Department.

Dennehy stated that interim measures would be taken to keep us afloat and that he would be talking to the chiefs on this.

Maggie Whitney inquired about the possibility of the Ashburnham Hardware building which was offered for purchase and Dennehy responded that it would be discussed by the committee. He added that they would work hard to contact people and to name the committee members as soon as possible.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Discussion and vote on the adoption by the Board of a Town Vehicle Safety Policy:** Dennehy stated that this was suggested by our insurance company, which is MIIA, that this policy be adopted regarding town owned vehicles. He noted that the purposes of this policy would be to encourage safe operation of town vehicles, to set forth the guidelines under which Town vehicles may be used and to minimize transportation costs and liability. Dennehy stated that he would check with Kevin Paicos on how this would work against the policy recently put forth by the Board regarding the Chiefs and their vehicles.

Carlisle made the motion to accept the Town Vehicle Safety Policy with the addition of language to exclude employee contracts and their provisions. Dennehy seconded and the motion carried.

**Vote to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 166, Section 32A regarding appointed inspectors of wires:** Dennehy stated that this issue was brought to the Board's attention by the current electrical inspectors in town who were concerned. MGL Chapter 166 Section 32A is accepted so electricians work in a town and still serve as an inspector for the town. He added that these electricians can't inspect their own work. Dennehy stated that this was passed by Town Counsel and that a vote is required to accept.

Carlisle motioned to accept the provisions of MGL Chapter 166, Section 32A and was seconded by Dennehy. Motion carried.

#### V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. March 20, 2006 – Regular Meeting**  
Carlisle motioned to approve these minutes and was seconded by Dennehy. Motion carried.
- B. March 20, 2006 – Executive Session**  
Carlisle motioned to approve these minutes and was seconded by Dennehy. Motion carried.
- C. March 22, 2006 – Special Meeting**  
Carlisle motioned to approve these minutes and was seconded by Dennehy. Motion carried.

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#### VI. OTHER MATTERS

Dennehy stated that the Town Election is on Tuesday April 25<sup>th</sup> and the Annual Town Meeting will be held on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. He noted the ATM warrant will be closed on Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> and that no potential articles will be accepted after that date.

Dennehy stated that the next Board of Selectmen meeting will be on Tuesday, April 18<sup>th</sup> due to

the Patriots Day holiday on Monday.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:55 p.m., Carlisle motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Dennehy. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Turcotte  
Administrative Assistant