

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES (revised)  
JUNE 4, 2007  
STEVENS MEMORIAL LIBRARY**

This meeting was taped for local cable television Channel 8.

PRESENT: Mark Carlisle, Chair, Jonathan Dennehy, Member, Chris Gagnon, Clerk, Kevin Paicos, Town Administrator and Paul Boushell, Interim Town Administrator.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: At 7:00 p.m., Carlisle read the agenda. Dennehy moved to accept the agenda and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

II. PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

A. **Dog Hearing – Laughton:** At 7:05 p.m. Carlisle opened the Dog Hearing. Paicos gave an update to the Board on the Laughton dog issue. Dennehy inquired as to whether the owners could control this dog. Paicos explained that there had been no further incidents since the last hearing but that they want to change the ownership of the dog. The Town Clerk explained how the rabies requirement works.

Dennehy moved to amend the order with the new ownership transferred to Mr. Fernandez who resides with the Laughton's at their address. It was seconded by Gagnon and the motion carried.

At 7:15 p.m. Gagnon motioned to close the dog hearing and was seconded by Dennehy. Motion carried.

B. **Correspondence**

C. **Town Administrator's Update:** The update is attached to these minutes.

Paicos touched upon a number of issues outlined in his report.

Gagnon motioned to award BW Construction as the general contractor with the stipulation not to exceed the \$7.5m. Carlisle seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

D. **Public Safety Building Committee update:** Gagnon gave a brief update.

The Nextel tower was brought up and discussed briefly.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Discussion and appointment of Montachusett Opportunity Representative:** This was put off until later in the meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

B. **Interim Town Administrator Candidates:** (The Board decided to do the interview with Dana Kennan now so that he wouldn't need to stay too late.)

At this point the Board began the interview process for the Interim Town Administrator position. The first candidate was Dana Kennan.

It was noted that Kennan had a very good resume with solid participation in the community. Kennan stated that his philosophy was to interact with the Board of Selectmen in order to expedite service to the community. He noted that he had an open door policy in order to provide service to the Town's customers.

The board inquired as to what Kennan was doing now and what his goals were and he noted that he is retired, is looking for a temporary position and that this ad caught his eye. He also noted that he likes to keep busy and that he has had 30 years of experience with the school community. The Board thanked Mr. Kennan for his time.

At this point, Paicos gave the Board an update on the budget noting that the DPW had storm damage repairs amounting to a large sum of money and the fire department had a bump in overtime.

Paicos also noted that the Water Sewer rate was not adequate. He stated that there would be a large transfer needed from the surplus account in order to operate and that next year there would be no surplus. He added that next year there would need to be a rate increase.

Paicos also stated that the Russell Hill land acquisition would be completed on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

He stated that back taxes are being collected. Paicos noted that the bridge at the end of Oakmont Drive was damaged and the DPW has been fixing it while keeping the costs down.

Paicos noted that a possible meeting with the public on the massive road damage and what is being done and when might be held.

Paicos also noted that the Senior Center RFP needs someone to work on it ASAP. He also stated that the Briggs sub-committee has asked to see what space needs there are for Girl/Boy Scouts, Lions Club, and others.

Paicos then began discussion on the Town Hall Relocation Costs which totaled over \$74,000. He noted that with these costs he was not happy about being charged rent. Paicos also noted that due to the fact that we were not allowed to use the prisoners for the move to the school, the Town incurred overtime to the Highway Department. He also stated that the electrical and computer numbers jumped four-fold as they failed to give us some critical information.

Paicos stated that the taxpayers are entering the Temporary Town Hall thru means other than the buzzer system and added that the citizens of Ashburnham gave \$50k for a security system and repairs to ORHS and Ashburnham should get some recognition for this.

Both Paicos and Dennehy stated that they were upset about the rent while Gagnon stated that they should ask to be put on the School Committee agenda to let them know about their disappointment and anger. Carlisle stated that the rent numbers were outrageous as it is supposed to be utilities and he inquired as to where the rent numbers came from.

Paicos stated that he would ask to be on the School Committee agenda on June 13<sup>th</sup> as he feels this is a breach of the contract.

Carlisle then stated that they should discuss the appointment of Beth Woynas by the Board of Selectmen as their Montachusett Opportunity representative. Gagnon motioned to approve this appointment and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion carried.

IV. NEW BUSINESS (continued)

- A. Review and vote on Special Town Election Ballot:** Dennehy read the ballot as presented. (copy attached). Dennehy motioned to approve the ballot and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.
- C. Discussion on the Verizon Cable Issue:** There was a short discussion on this issue. A resolution and letter of support was discussed and Gagnon offered to hand carry it if the Board approved. Dennehy motioned to approve the letter of support and was seconded by Gagnon. All in favor.
- D. Discussion on the Preserve America Program:** Gagnon stated that this program is non-governmental and for non-profits such as the Piano Museum and the Historical Society and that they could apply for possible grants if accepted. Gagnon stated that they are looking for interest on this. He noted that they are interested in creating an historical corridor thru Lunenburg, Ashby, Ashburnham, Winchendon and Royalston.
- B. Interim Town Administrator Candidates (continued):** The Board interviewed the second candidate, Paul Boushell. It was noted that Boushell has had a working relationship with the Town now for about 4-6 months. He stated that he has worked with Paicos on various projects in the Town such as the ConCom By-Law, the Merit Pay Plan, the budget, Page Beach, etc. He also noted that he handled the Town Hall move while Paicos was on military leave. Boushell stated that he knows where the Town wants to go and he would love to be a part of the Town of Ashburnham. The Board thanked Boushell.
- E. Approval of Special One-Day Liquor Licenses:** Carlisle noted that the Fitchburg Sportsman Club is looking for a One-Day Liquor License for Saturday June 23<sup>rd</sup> from noon to 6:00 p.m. He also noted that St. Denis Church was looking for a One-Day Liquor License for June 2<sup>nd</sup> from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.
- Dennehy motioned to approve both Special One-Day Liquor Licenses as noted and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.
- F. Ambulance bill abatement request:** Paicos noted that he recommends the Board approve an abatement on this invoice (copy attached) as a hardship case. Gagnon motioned to approve as presented and was seconded by Dennehy. Motion carried.
- G. Review/Approval of new policies re: Building Construction Projects:** Gagnon motioned to approve both policies (copies attached) and was seconded by Dennehy. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. May 5, 2007 – Special Meeting**  
Dennehy motioned to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2007 Special Meeting and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.
- B. May 7, 2007 – Regular Meeting**  
Dennehy motioned to approve the minutes of the May 7, 2007 Regular Meeting and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

Carlisle made a few announcements regarding events in the area.

Carlisle stated that the next Selectmen's meeting would be on Tuesday, June 19, 2007.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:00 p.m., Dennehy motioned to enter into Executive Session to deliberate upon matters which, if done in open meeting could detrimentally affect the position of the Town regarding contract negotiations with non-union personnel, the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and strategy of pending litigation and not to reconvene into open session. He was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. Dennehy motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Gagnon.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator