

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
JUNE 19, 2007
VON DECK LECTURE HALL, OAKMONT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

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

PRESENT: Mark Carlisle, Chair, Jonathan Dennehy, Member, Chris Gagnon, Clerk, Kevin Paicos, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. Also present was Paul Boushell, Interim Town Administrator, Anne Cervantes, Town Treasurer and Don Ouellette, DPW Director.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: At 7:00 p.m., Carlisle read the agenda. Dennehy motioned to accept the agenda and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried. Some additions were made to the agenda and the motion included the acceptance of these changes.

II. PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

A. **Approval of Bond for Treasurer:** Anne Cervantes was present and stated that the borrowing was approved at the May 2006 Annual Town Meeting. She noted that it was for the amount of \$200k at a 7% interest rate with the Bank of Western Massachusetts. Dennehy motioned to approve the bond and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

B. **Correspondence**

C. **Town Administrator's Update:** The Town Administrator's Update Report is attached to these minutes. Paicos noted that the Page Beach Recognition Ceremony will be held on Thursday, July 12th at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Sandy Laplante at 12 Pine Avenue.

Paicos noted that the safe at the Town Hall is an issue that has come up during the renovations. Gagnon noted that anyone wishing to take ownership of this safe should come forward to save it at the cost of insurance only. Paicos stated that if no one comes forward then it will be brought to a dumpster.

Paicos stated that the Nextel lease would be the topic of the ZBA Hearing on July 18th.

Paicos explained the FY07 Budget Report that was handed out to the Board. (copy attached). He noted that there was still a month to go and on the revenue side we were in good shape.

He also stated that the Water Dept. had a deficit of \$50k and Sewer had a deficit of \$76k. He went on to say that the Sewer rate wasn't set high enough for 2007 and a new Water/Sewer rate would be in effect as of 7/1/07, but that it wouldn't be high enough to cover the deficit, as the Sewer rate wasn't adequate.

Paicos noted that an article would be necessary at the Fall Town Meeting to rectify this situation. He noted that there has been a Water deficit for the past three years in a row and he added that the DOR may affect setting our tax rate.

Paicos also noted that the VMS has a shortfall of \$8,600 and we knew this was coming but we did save quite a bit with the minor changes done there. He noted that this shortfall and the Fire Dept. shortfall will be covered by Reserve Fund transfers.

He also stated that the DPW deficit would hopefully be covered by MEMA. He added that the Water and Snow & Ice \$100k deficit would come out of free cash in the fall.

Paicos also noted that on the next agenda, the Board should appoint the custodian of property for public auction. He added that he would ask each department if any properties on the list could be used before the next meeting. He noted that Anne Cervantes suggests that they engage a professional auctioneer.

- E. Report by Town Administrator re: Road/Sidewalk/Bridge work for FY08:** Don Ouellette, DPW Director gave a presentation on what roads and projects will be completed in FY07 as well as what is on the list for FY08. He noted that the balance of FY07 funds, \$25,520 will be used to finish Hardy Road. (copy is attached of his presentation)

Ouellette continued by stating that \$175k remained in the Chapter 90 money for the Town. He stated that the Puffer Street drainage would be starting on Thursday, June 21st and that there was no money available this year for the Main Street repairs.

Paicos noted that the Westminster Street bridge is top priority and the engineering has to get done on Ashby Road.

Dennehy stated that a letter from the Board should be sent to the legislature to have these two projects in Ashburnham a top priority and he noted that they would ask Paul Boushell or Kevin Paicos to do this. Carlisle asked for a roll call on these two priorities and it was a unanimous “yes”.

Dennehy also wanted to remind the residents that they voted “no” on the roads ballot. Carlisle thanked Don Ouellette and noted that he should go forward with his schedule.

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Approval of Annual Road Race:** Carlisle stated that the Brian’s Gift Road Race is an annual event and that it has been approved by both the Fire and Police Chiefs. He noted that it is scheduled for September 29, 2007. Dennehy motioned to approve this event and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

- B. Appointments for Fiscal 2008:** Gagnon wanted to note that the Board should vote a blanket acceptance of appointments as Special Town Employees. Dennehy stated that they have the authority to grant this status for all the appointments.

Dennehy motioned to approve the list of appointments as presented and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

Gagnon motioned to approve the appointment as Special Town Employees for every volunteer appointee on every board and committee in Town and was seconded by Dennehy. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes to approve.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

- B. Police Detail – Fitchburg Sportsmen’s Club:** Dennehy noted that this event was already approved by the Board but that the Police Chief has recommended a 4 hour police detail. Carlisle noted that they have had police details in the past and that it could be a liability issue and that the Chief’s recommendation should be duly noted.

Dennehy stated that for all future events of this nature, the Board should be sure they have written sign-off from both chiefs before it comes before them for consideration.

Paicos noted that they would be notified.

- A. Discharge of Mortgage:** Carlisle noted that they have been asked to approve a discharge of mortgage for property located at 102 Willard Road. Dennehy motioned to approve and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

A short discussion followed regarding the location of future Board of Selectmen meetings. Gagnon offered the cable studio and stated that he would check with his Board on the availability.

Carlisle stated that the next Board of Selectmen meeting would be held on Monday, July 2, 2007.

Dennehy announced the Ashburnham Downtown Days which was set for Saturday, June 30th at 10:00 a.m.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:05 p.m. Dennehy motioned to enter into Executive Session and was seconded by Gagnon. Carlisle stated that they would enter into executive session to deliberate upon matters which, if done in open meeting could detrimentally affect the position of the Town regarding collective bargaining, contract negotiations with non-union personnel and the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and not to reconvene into regular session.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 9:35 p.m. Dennehy motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Gagnon.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator