

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
OCTOBER 23, 2007- JOINT MEETING WITH ADVISORY BOARD
OVERLOOK MIDDLE SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

PRESENT: Mark Carlisle, Chair, Jonathan Dennehy, Member, Chris Gagnon, Clerk, Paul Boushell, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. Advisory Board members present: Bill Johnson, Chair; Leo Janssens, Maggie Whitney and Jamie Piedrafite.

This meeting began at 7:00 p.m. at the School Committee Meeting in the Overlook Library, where the School Committee would vote on the articles to be placed on the November 15, 2007 Special Town Meeting Warrant. The School Committee unanimously voted on the following for the Town of Ashburnham:

1. To place an article on the STM warrant to replace the gym doors and frames, as well as the HVAC system at the J.R. Briggs Elementary School at a cost of \$15,000. And to upgrade the telephone system at Overlook Middle School, of which the cost would be shared by both towns, with Ashburnham's share being \$2,316.
2. To rescind their request regarding the 3-year computer lease program.

At 8:15 p.m. the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Board left the Library and reconvened in the Overlook Cafeteria for the purpose of a final review and recommendation by the Selectmen of all articles on the STM warrant and the addition of the two articles voted on by the School Committee.

Dennehy noted his concern that Don Ouellette had performed an inspection of Overlook Road with Supt. Zapantis and that the Board members were not included. Carlisle noted that it was his suggestion and he apologized for the oversight.

It was noted by Bill Johnson that the Advisory Board would be meeting on November 12th and that they would make their recommendations on the floor of town meeting.

Mark Carlisle began with Article 1, which was to rescind the quorum requirement at Town Meeting. Gagnon motioned to approve and was seconded by Dennehy. All were in favor to recommend.

Article 2, which was the transfer of \$20,000 from Free Cash to defray costs of the Town Offices move to temporary quarters to Oakmont Regional High School. Gagnon motioned to approve and was seconded by Dennehy. All were in favor to recommend.

Gagnon stated that he would like to see a breakdown of all expenses on this project and Bill Johnson noted that the Advisory Board had asked for the same thing earlier from Jim Shanahan. Paul Boushell stated that he would get this for both boards.

Article 3, was to amend the Town's General Bylaws by adding the LID Bylaw. Gagnon motioned to approve and was seconded by Dennehy. All were in favor to recommend.

Article 4, to establish a Trustee Board for the Bresnahan Scouting and Community Center. Gagnon noted his concerns with this article. He stated that they should wait and look into this further and not rush into it. Dennehy and Carlisle agreed with this and Dennehy added that he would like to help them as they need some legal advice in order to get organized. Carlisle stated that he would like to do this "once and do it right". It was also noted that Town Counsel had the same questions and concerns as the Board regarding this issue.

After much discussion it was decided that all members support this in theory and that they would put this on as a priority item for the Annual Town Meeting in May. Gagnon motioned to pass over this article and to recommend serious efforts in May. Carlisle seconded. Dennehy stated that he would reach out to the building committee. It was unanimous to remove this article from the warrant for future placement on the Annual Town Meeting warrant.

Article 5, to pay invoices in the amount of \$5,550, from a previous year. Dennehy motioned to approve this article and was seconded by Gagnon. All were in favor to recommend.

Article 6, to transfer custody of Town's interest in property on Sherbert Road. Gagnon motioned to approve this article and was seconded by Dennehy. Mark Carlisle abstained as he had some personal interest. Gagnon and Dennehy were in favor to recommend.

Article 7, to adopt new section to Zoning Bylaws re: Village Center District Moratorium. Carlisle motioned to approve this article and was seconded by Dennehy. All were in favor to recommend.

Article 8, to transfer \$80,000 to Highway Department to alleviate the shortfall. Paul Boushell explained that Katie Nunez had set up the Capital Improvement Fund while she was here and Dennehy also noted how Ron Reed had played a big part in setting this up as well. Boushell stated that the \$80,000 would be transferred from the Capital Improvement Fund into the Reserve Fund and then the Advisory Board would approve the transfer to the Highway Department. He also stated that the funds would be returned to the Capital Improvement Fund as this was a borrowing from ourselves. Gagnon motioned to approve this article and was seconded by Dennehy. All were in favor to recommend.

It was noted that Article 9 would now be moved to the end of the warrant and that the school articles would be placed before. It was also noted that the numbering of the articles would be changed due to the removal of article 4.

There was some discussion on how the school articles should be worded. It was then decided that the first school article would be as follows as Article 8: "To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds a sum of money in the amount of \$2,316 for the Ashburnham Westminster Regional School District to upgrade the phone system at Overlook Middle School, provided that the Town of Westminster also votes to fund it's proportional share of said phone system, or act in relation thereto." All Selectmen unanimously recommended this article.

The second school article, Article 9, read as follows: "To see if the Town will vote to appropriate by transfer from available funds the sum of \$15,000 to the Ashburnham Westminster Regional School District to repair the gym door and the HVAC system at J.R. Briggs Elementary School, or act in relation thereto." All members unanimously recommended this article.

Dennehy stated that he still had a problem voting to approve this money out of Free Cash when they have to say no to other department requests. He added that he does recognize these items have to be done and he appreciates the suggestions made by the School Committee Chair, Dave Christianson, in support of going to their E&D for the computer lease funds.

Gagnon also commented by stating that this was a one time capital reimbursement from the School District and their request is a one time capital expenditure request.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Turcotte
Assistant to the Town Administrator