

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
DECEMBER 17, 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, Paul Boushell, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA: At 7:03 p.m., Carlisle read the agenda. Dennehy motioned to accept the agenda and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

II. PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

A. **Tax Classification Hearing:** At 7:05 p.m. Dennehy motioned to open the Tax Classification Hearing and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

The three members of the Board of Assessors were in attendance. Carlisle gave the floor to Dick Coswell, the Chair of this Board. Coswell gave a short statement regarding the tax classification for the Town. He noted that there was an increase in growth of 1.5% from FY07. He went on by stating there were 32 new homes built this year which is approximately \$190k in new growth. Carlisle read from the report given to the Board by the Assessors that the total value, taxable value for the Town is \$669,584,735. He thanked the Assessors for their hard work.

Dennehy motioned to set a single tax rate between residential and commercial. Gagnon seconded and the motion carried. Dennehy added that within the next couple of weeks they would set the tax rate and the bills should go out by February 1st.

At 7:14 p.m. Dennehy motioned to close the Tax Classification Hearing and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

B. **Correspondence:** Carlisle stated that the Board received a letter from Stan Herriott on behalf of the Ashburnham Westminster Rotary Club. He read the letter, copy attached, which stated that they would like to meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the development of a garden project in the center of Town as well as the potential adoption of a section of roadway in Ashburnham in conjunction with the Mass Highway Adopt-a-Highway program. Boushell stated that he would call Stan Herriott to set up a slot on an agenda in January some time.

C. **Town Administrator's Update:** Paul Boushell stated that he has worked on a number of the issues on the Board's list of priorities this past week. He noted that he has the municipal calendar two-thirds completed and that in about two more weeks he should have the budget memo and budget ready to do out.

Boushell announced that the hours for Town offices on Christmas Eve would be 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and New Years Eve is 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Gagnon noted that he wanted to commend the DPW for the great job they did with the roads in Town during the recent snowstorm. Dennehy voiced his concern regarding his neighborhood and the lack of plowing during the storm. Boushell stated that he would check into it for him.

D. **Public Safety Building Committee Update:** Gagnon noted that because of the recent snow storms, there is probably a set back of a day or two. He added that the roof should be on soon in order to avoid any snow in the interior of the building.

III. OLD BUSINESS

IV. NEW BUSINESS

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

VI. OTHER MATTERS

Carlisle noted that on-line tax payment is now available along with instructions and a number to call if there are any questions.

Carlisle stated that the next meeting would be held on Monday, January 7th at 7:00 p.m. He also wished everyone a happy holiday.

Gagnon inquired as to when the Selectmen would be joining the Advisory Board in meetings on the budget and Boushell stated that the calendar will coordinate the two boards meeting. Carlisle noted that it would be pretty much level-funded on the budget this year. Dennehy agreed that joint meetings need to happen, where if needed the department heads could be brought in to answer any questions and also to coordinate with the school budget process.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:29 p.m. Dennehy motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Gagnon.

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator