

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
SPECIAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 7, 2007 – 11:30 A.M.
SELECTMEN’S OFFICE, TOWN HALL**

PRESENT: Jonathan Dennehy, Chair, Chris Gagnon, Clerk, Mark Carlisle, Kevin Paicos, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. Also present – Dr. Mike Zapantis, Sherry Kersey, Dave Christianson, Dave Uminski and Steve Lawrence.

Dennehy called the meeting to order at 11:35 a.m. and recognized Dr. Zapantis, Dave Christianson, Dave Uminski, Steve Lawrence and Sherry Kersey.

Dennehy stated that the Board has the distinct pleasure to participate in a shining example of the community. He stated that the proposal offered is the most cost effective and non disruptive option and that he feels strongly that everyone will be happy with it.

He also stated that the Town owes an extreme debt of gratitude to Dr. Zapantis and the School District for coming up with this plan. He stated that the proposal is to relocate the Town Hall staff at Oakmont and that it is deemed suitable for our use. He reiterated how crucial their graciousness was. He also thanked the School Committee, Kevin Paicos, Sylvia and Eric Smith who would work on the plans.

Dennehy noted that there would be a separate entrance for security reasons and that this would be worked out with the school. He also noted that we would reimburse the School District for electrical and heat costs which would be far less than the other options.

Dave Christianson stated that the School Committee voted to have Mike Zapantis set up the contract with the Town and that security is the top priority. He also noted that the schools are community facilities and they were happy to help.

Mike Zapantis stated that this is really what the community is all about and this was a way to resolve the issue. He added that a security plan would be needed and that they would eliminate the window and replace it with a door for private access. He also noted that all employees would have to get a background check and that safety is the big issue for the security of the children.

Dave Sargent, Chair of the Town Hall Renovation Committee stated that it looked like the relocation would be in March or May and he thanked the School District and Mike Zapantis on behalf of the Committee.

Dennehy noted that there is a Public Information Hearing scheduled by the Town Hall Renovation Committee for Monday, February 12, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. upstairs in the Town Hall meeting room. He added that with this resolved we can now go ahead.

Paicos extended his thanks to the School Administration, the School Committee and especially to Mike Zapantis. He stated that it was Mike’s idea and he did the initial research. He added that this is an outstanding example of what it should be in a community.

Dennehy stated that all three members of the Board have been working on this together and that they are all unanimously in agreement. He asked for a motion to approve this move.

Gagnon motioned to enter into an agreement with the Ashburnham/Westminster Regional School District for the purpose of relocating the Town Hall staff and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion carried.

At 11:53 a.m. Gagnon motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator