

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
JANUARY 22, 2008
VON DECK LECTURE HALL, OAKMONT REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL**

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

PRESENT: Mark Carlisle, Chair, Chris Gagnon, Clerk, Paul Boushell, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. Jonathan Dennehy was not in attendance.

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

II. PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

A. **Correspondence:** Carlisle noted that he had nothing to report under Correspondence but that Kevin Martin of the Fire Department was present to introduce Robert Plant, the new Firefighter/Paramedic. The introduction was made noting that Plant had been hired in November. Carlisle also noted that an EMT Class would be held, at no cost to the Town or the taxpayers, and Martin noted that 7 members would be certified at this class. Carlisle stated that the Town needs more of this type of program. Martin also stated that right now the department has between 22 and 25 certified EMT's and 2 full-time paramedics with a total of 5 in the department counting the on-call.

B. **Town Administrator's Update:** Boushell stated that the House 1 budget would be released at 1:00 p.m. the next day and that he is waiting for this news in order to go forward with putting together the budget for FY09.

He also noted that as of this date the Snow and Ice Budget was overdrawn by \$20k which isn't too bad in comparison to other communities.

Boushell also noted that he met with Don Bucchianeri, the Project Manager for the Town Hall Renovation project, and was told that the elevator was due to be delivered by Thursday of this week. Carlisle stated that the elevator was originally supposed to be installed around the third week of February and Boushell stated that there could be a little delay due to issues with the technician's availability. He added that the electrical and technical wiring was done and that the downstairs was almost completed.

Boushell noted that the move back would have to be planned for after the Annual Town Meeting.

Gagnon inquired about the preliminary budgets and Boushell stated that they have not been sent out yet as he is waiting for the numbers from the Governor. He noted that the forms were all set and that he is planning a Department Head Meeting for next

Tuesday to distribute the forms. He added that the budget would be very close to being level funded.

- C. **Public Safety Building Committee update:** Gagnon stated that the project is going well and the roof is on now. He added that there is some contention over the in-ground oil tank. He noted that he is still looking into this and that his concern isn't that it's underground but how to keep it underground. He stated that the contractor will need to fill the tank with oil in order to conduct a buoyancy test and has offered to buy the oil back. He added that he personally is not comfortable with the tank yet and will chase this down to the end. He also noted that he has been assured that the ground around the tank will eventually compact and keep it down so he doesn't feel that there is cause for undo concern. He ended by stating that everything else is going along great and it is definitely quite a building.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. **Review of Warrant Calendar:** Carlisle noted that the additional information the Board requested has been added to the calendar and that this would keep them organized and could be used for future years as well.

Gagnon noted that they should slide in the dates in this calendar of the meetings with the Advisory Board and the School Committee once they are set and Carlisle agreed.

- B. **Follow-up to Road Presentation by DPW Director:** It was noted by Carlisle that Don Ouellette had to be at another meeting and may not be able to attend but that they would put this off until the end of the agenda in anticipation of his attendance later. He noted that if Ouellette didn't make this meeting he would be put on the next agenda.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. **Open Annual Town Meeting Warrant:** Gagnon motioned to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for the 2008 Fiscal Year and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion carried.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. **January 7, 2008 – Regular Meeting**
Gagnon motioned to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2008 Regular Meeting and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion carried.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

Carlisle reminded residents that tax payments can now be made on-line through the website. Boushell noted that the Town Accountant is meeting with the DOR representative tomorrow and hopefully the tax rate will be set at that time.

Carlisle also announced the following reminders from the Town Clerk:

- Absentee ballots are now available for those unable to vote in person at the February 5th Presidential Primary.
- Monday, February 4th at 12:00 noon is the last day to file for absentee ballots at the Town Clerk's office.
- Tuesday, February 5th is the Presidential Primary and voting hours are 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at J.R. Briggs Elementary School.
- The Annual Census forms have been mailed to all residents and they should be returned to either the Town Clerk's office or the Police Station within 10 days.

Carlisle also announced that the next meeting would be held on Monday, February 4, 2008. Gagnon noted that there would be an Executive Session on February 4, 2008 to discuss litigation.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:29 p.m. Gagnon motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte
Assistant to the Town Administrator