

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
FEBRUARY 19, 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, Jonathan Dennehy, Member and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. Paul Boushell was absent.

- I. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** At 7:00 p.m., Carlisle read the agenda. Dennehy motioned to approve the agenda as read and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.
- II. **PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE**

- A. Correspondence:** Carlisle read a letter which was sent by Paul Girling of 36 Noel Road to the Selectmen. A copy of this letter is attached to the minutes and it basically stated his unhappiness on how intolerable the roads are in Ashburnham specifically Dunn Road. Carlisle commented there is no doubt that the roads in Ashburnham are in desperate straits right now, especially Dunn Road. He stated that the DPW has been out there trying to patch these potholes and that it is a difficult ongoing problem. He noted that there is approximately 90 miles of road in Ashburnham and the DPW is working hard. He added that the town needs to take a strong proactive approach and that he appreciates the DPW and what they have done with what they have.

Carlisle stated that on Wednesday, February 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the Oakmont Auditorium, Don Ouellette is sponsoring a presentation by the DPW on the roads and he urges everyone to attend. He added that everyone has been impacted in some way.

Dennehy added that he has had many calls and emails as well regarding the condition of the roads. He stated that the DPW will present a road proposal and that the residents need to decide and vote on one of the plans that will be presented.

- B. Town Administrator's Update:** Carlisle stated that he would attempt to give an update in Boushell's absence. He noted that the budget process is ongoing and that the FY09 budget would be out in the next week or so.

Bill Johnson, the Advisory Board Chair was present and noted his displeasure in the timeframe in getting the budget to the Advisory Board. He stated that the School Committee should be commended on their budget process. Carlisle stated that Boushell is the Interim Town Administrator and that he may not be familiar with our process and a little slack is acceptable. He added that we are improving the process. Dennehy noted that he hoped the budget would come out where it would need very little tweaking once it's received.

Gagnon stated that he was more concerned about finishing this year's budget and what effect it would have on next year's budget. He noted that he wanted to see the

Revenue Tracking report for this year. Johnson noted that he had not received the monthly report yet which was due from the Town Accountant on the 10th of each month. A short discussion followed on this issue.

Carlisle noted that the Town Hall continues to press ahead. He stated that the elevator work has started and noted that the contractor has been doing a great job and that the project should be completed by mid-April.

- C. Public Safety Building Committee update:** Gagnon stated that they are finally coming to a compromise on the oil tank issue noting that 1,000 gallons of oil would be put in the tank to anchor it and that this would be purchased out of the construction budget. He noted that the roof is water-proof for now and the finish date is unofficially mid-September. He noted that everything is going as planned.

III. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Close ATM Warrant:** Carlisle noted that there had been some confusion on the deadline for warrant articles to be submitted for the May 3, 2008 Annual Town Meeting. The Board unanimously agreed to extend the deadline to Friday, February 22nd at noon.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Preliminary discussion:** Superintendent Mike Zapantis and Dave Christianson, School Committee Chair were present.

Handouts (copies attached) were distributed by Dr. Zapantis and a discussion followed on the possibility of J.R. Briggs being selected for the MSBA feasibility study and what needs to be done to make this happen. Christianson noted that with the MSBA giving at least 53% of the cost back, the Town would be paying approximately \$200k. He also noted that the MSBA intends to move aggressively through the entire process so they have 120 days to get approved by the Town. He noted that the new building would be built within the next three years.

The Selectmen thanked Zapantis and Christianson for their time.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. February 4, 2008 – Regular Meeting**
Dennehy motioned to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2008 Regular Meeting and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

VI. OTHER MATTERS

Carlisle announced the following:

- The Annual Town Caucus for the purpose of nomination of candidates for the Town Offices, will be held on Monday, February 25, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. in the Von Deck

Lecture Hall located at Oakmont. Carlisle stated that residents should go to the Caucus to support the candidates.

Carlisle announced the Road Presentation on Wednesday February 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the Oakmont Auditorium and once again encouraged residents to attend.

Carlisle announced that the Planning Board has an opening coming up and someone should be nominated if they are interested in serving. He added that they also have an opening for an associate member who would be appointed not elected.

Carlisle stated that the next meeting would be on Monday, March 3rd.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:03 p.m. Dennehy motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte
Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator