

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
JOINT MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN & ADVISORY BOARD
APRIL 14, 2008
SENIOR CENTER – VMS BUILDING**

This meeting was taped for local cable television Channel 8. This was a Joint Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and the Advisory Board.

PRESENT: Mark Carlisle, Chair, Jonathan Dennehy, Member, and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. Paul Boushell, Town Administrator was absent. Chris Gagnon, Clerk came in at 6:20 p.m.

Also in attendance: Chief Larry Barrett, Chief Paul Zbikowski, Debbie Phillips, Town Counsel, Jim Shanahan, Town Accountant, and Advisory Board members, Bill Johnson, Jamie Piedrafite, Frank Lombardo, Dottie Munroe, Leo Janssens, Marie Zbikowski and Maggie Whitney.

Carlisle convened the meeting at 6:05 p.m. and stated that this meeting was being held to discuss the 2½ plus growth school numbers. He proceeded to read a statement regarding his concerns and the miscommunication with the school regarding the \$70,000 voted on at the last joint meeting. He added that returning this \$70,000 back to the school would mean that the Briggs Feasibility Study article would require an override vote to pass as the \$160,000 previously voted on to be used to fund a good portion of this study would not be available.

Bill Johnson, Advisory Board Chair stated that both boards should go back and reverse their decisions of Tuesday night's meeting and that a motion should be made to return the \$70,000 of the 2½ plus growth to the school.

Carlisle suggested that they should fund the following items using the additional local aid funds of \$115,000: \$10,000 for Article 14 (Treasurer); \$34,000 for Article 21 (New Cruiser); \$10,000 for Article 26 (Town Hall Move); and \$51,000 for the hiring of an additional EMT. He stated that this would come to \$105,000 leaving \$10,000 remaining out of the \$115,000 of additional local aid.

Johnson stated that the Advisory Board had concerns about the \$160,000 and if it was still available. Jim Shanahan assured them that the \$160,000 was in the general funds at this time but not certified yet into Free Cash.

Johnson motioned to put back the \$70,000 in the Ashburnham Westminster Regional School District budget line in Article 2 and was seconded by Piedrafite. Dennehy motioned to restore the \$70,000 to the AWRSB budget line in Article 2 and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion was unanimous by both boards.

Dennehy reiterated that this vote would result in the entire Briggs Feasibility Study to go as an override, capital exclusion. He noted that he supports this study and hopes it passes.

There was a question raised regarding the Police budget and whether an additional officer had been included. Chief Barrett explained his plan in the budget for a new officer. He stated that he added an officer this current year to replace Kevin Ahearn while he is out with an injury. He emphasized that this officer is replacing Ahearn while he's out and that the insurance is covering the salary. He added that he is requesting that next year, a new officer is hired as they have enough activity to warrant another officer. Carlisle noted that they would address this once they find out the status of Officer Ahearn in the fall. Dennehy stated that adding an officer in FY09 would assure two officers on 24/7.

Johnson stated that the Advisory Board wants to show their support for the Briggs Study. Leo Janssens motioned their support of the Briggs Feasibility Study and was seconded by Whitney. This was a unanimous vote.

Dennehy motioned the Selectmen's support of the Briggs Feasibility Study and was seconded by Carlisle. Motion was unanimous.

At 6:25 p.m. Dennehy motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Gagnon. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte
Assistant to the Town Administrator