

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING - MINUTES  
DECEMBER 22, 2008  
VON DECK LECTURE HALL – OAKMONT**

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

PRESENT: Chris Gagnon, Chair, Jonathan Dennehy, Member and Maggie Whitney, Clerk and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. Kevin Paicos, Town Administrator was absent.

II EXECUTIVE SESSION

I. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

At 7:15 p.m. Gagnon reconvened from Executive Session. He noted that they just finished negotiations with Nancy Haines as the new Town Accountant and that she officially would start the next day. He also noted that if Shanahan needed to work in an advisory capacity they would negotiate.

Gagnon also noted a few items listed on the agenda would be postponed. Under III Item A and IV Item B. Dennehy motioned to approve the agenda as amended and was seconded by Whitney.

III PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS & CORRESPONDENCE

**A. Review of Year to Date Revenue & Expense Reports**

This was postponed.

**B. Correspondence**

**C. Public Safety Building Committee update**

**D. Chairman's Report**

The above three topics were combined.

Gagnon noted that the Board received a letter from Chief Zbikowski, as the head of the Emergency Management Team, stating that as of 9:00 a.m. today, the State of Emergency was over.

He also noted that there was nothing much to report on the Public Safety Building at this time as they are waiting for all the invoices.

Gagnon stated that all the members of the Board attended daily meetings during the emergency. These meetings were run by Chief Zbikowski with updates from Stan Herriott, Don Ouellette from the DPW, Dave Uminski, Robbie Brennan acting as Chief of Police and Dr. Zapantis. He added that they were also given updates by representatives from the State Police. Whitney added that she also attended meetings in Westminster and found that Ashburnham was lucky in comparison.

Gagnon stated that Representative Rice was very active and attended many meetings. He noted that the Town is probably looking at approximately \$3m in expenses with reimbursements of 75% from the Federal government and 25% from the State.

He noted the following points:

- The speed and professionalism of the Municipal Light Plant under their incredible manager.
- Our crews were tremendous.
- Dave Uminski and his wife worked around the clock to open the shelter.
- The Police managed all calls with a short staff as well as Dispatch.
- The Fire Department hosted outside crews and assisted in widening the roads.
- Everything was outstanding.
- The Board would meet later with all the departments to work on a real emergency plan for the future and will look back and review what occurred.

Whitney noted that Steve Nims and the Highway crew did a great job in plowing and neighbors helped neighbors. Gagnon stated that it was very heartwarming to see this. He stated that a meeting would be posted for a debriefing and to set up an outline.

Whitney noted that she would like to write a book on the Ice Storm and sell it with the proceeds given to charity. She asked that residents send in their stories.

Gagnon noted extra KUDOS to the Highway Department crew.

#### IV. OLD BUSINESS

No old business to discuss.

#### V. NEW BUSINESS

##### **A. Vote on License Renewals for 2009**

Gagnon read the list of license renewals as attached. Whitney motioned to approve the list and was seconded by Dennehy. Motion carried.

##### **B. Preliminary discussion – FY10 Budget schedule**

This topic was postponed.

#### VI. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### **A. November 13, 2008 – Special Meeting**

##### **B. November 17, 2008 – Joint Meeting w/Advisory Board**

##### **C. November 20, 2008 – Special Joint Meeting w/Advisory Board**

##### **D. November 24, 2008 – Special Informational Meeting w/Advisory Board**

##### **E. December 1, 2008 – Joint Meeting w/Advisory Board**

##### **F. December 3, 2008 – Special Meeting**

Dennehy motioned to approve the above minutes and was seconded by Whitney. Motion carried.

#### VII. SCHEDULE OF COMING EVENTS

Gagnon noted that the Town Hall would be closed on Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup> for the Christmas holiday. He also noted that the Town Hall would be closed on Wednesday, December 24<sup>th</sup> as all employees would be using vacation time, personal time or their floating holiday for this day.

#### VIII. OTHER MATTERS

Whitney noted that there needed to be a discussion on the Town Administrator position, including his work schedule, advertising, etc. Gagnon stated that they would need to receive his resignation letter before they could do anything.

Gagnon noted that the Board needed to vote to accept a donation of heating oil from Roy Bros. Oil to heat South Station for the Fire Department. Whitney noted that she would need more information and Dennehy agreed and stated that they would need to discuss this further. Dennehy motioned to accept the donation of one tank of oil from Roy Bros. for South Station at this time and was seconded by Whitney. Motion carried. The Board thanked Roy Bros. Oil for this generous donation.

A discussion followed on a location for the Board of Selectmen's meetings and what options were available. It was decided that until this issue was solidified, the meetings would be held at the school and that this was due to the generosity of Dave Uminski for allowing the use of the Von Deck Lecture Hall.

Gagnon stated that the next meeting would be held on Monday, January 5, 2009 and would be held at Oakmont.

#### IX. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, at 7:47 p.m. Dennehy motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Whitney. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia Turcotte  
Assistant to the Town Administrator