

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 1, 2010 – 7:00 P.M.
TRAINING ROOM AT PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX**

This meeting was aired live on local cable television.

PRESENT: Ed Vitone, Chair, Maggie Whitney, Clerk, Doug Briggs, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Maggie Whitney. Vitone called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. PUBLIC INPUT

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Whitney motioned to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

B. Bob Fichtel – Status of DPW Relocation Committee

Vitone asked Fichtel to give the Board an update on the status of the DPW Relocation Committee. Fichtel stated that the Committee has worked on the list from Doug Briggs and they have done everything they could do at this point. He noted that they realize the Town has a lot of other things on their agenda at this time, and that the DPW relocation would be an extra burden for the Town because of the cost. He stated that they would like to charge the Planning Board to work on developing an overlay district of the DPW site. He added that once this is brought to the Town Meeting, they could have the DPW Relocation Committee come back then.

Whitney stated that Briggs had already sent that request to John MacMillan, the Chair of the Planning Board and MacMillan stated that the overlay may not be necessary because of the Village Center District zoning that was approved at the last Annual Town Meeting. Vitone stated that they want to encourage commerce in the center of Town and move the DPW out of the center. He reiterated that an overlay may not be necessary because of the Village Center District zoning recently passed.

Fichtel stated that the Charette results were specific about using this area for affordable housing, elderly housing and some small businesses. Vitone stated that they would ask the Planning Board to compare the Charette results and the Village Center District to see if there are any missing elements and then review the results.

Vitone stated that when the time is right the Town could move forward with this charge but he asked if the Committee could go on sabbatical for a while. Fichtel agreed and added that they would have things ready when the economic times improve. The Board thanked Fichtel for attending.

- A. Continuance – Public Hearing – CDBG Grant (In attendance – Shelly Hatch –MRPC)
At 7:13 p.m. Vitone motioned to continue the Public Hearing of December 21, 2009. Whitney seconded and the motion carried.

Shelly Hatch stated that she had many forms to be signed, by the Selectmen and the Town Administrator. She asked to have the official vote read.

Whitney read the following:

“The Town received four (4) proposals from interested design firms in regards to the Senior Center Design Project. The Designer Selection Committee interviewed all four candidates. After the interviews, the Committee discussed all four firms and made a decision as to which they feel would best suit the needs of the Town and the Senior Center Project.

The Designer Selection Committee recommends to the Board of Selectmen that the Town hires John Catlin and Associates Architects, Inc. from Quincy as the design firm.

The Town of Ashburnham votes to hire the architectural firm of John Catlin and Associates Architect, Inc. to conduct the Senior Center Design Project for a project cost of \$125,000 contingent upon the following:

1. The Town of Ashburnham is awarded funding through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) FY10 grant program, and
2. The Town successfully executes the contract agreement with the State of Massachusetts, and
3. The Town receives the Environmental Review Clearance from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).”

Vitone motioned to accept the vote as read and Whitney seconded. Motion carried.

Hatch distributed the forms requiring signatures and she stated that she would send copies of the application when it’s filed.

Vitone motioned to adopt the Community Development Strategy dated 1/2/10 as presented and Whitney seconded. Motion carried.

Whitney made the motion that they agreed to sign all documents as listed and Vitone seconded. Motion carried.

Whitney motioned to close the hearing and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried. They thanked Shelly Hatch for her work on behalf of Ashburnham.

Hatch noted that she would ask Vitone to sign the document to officially close out the Page Beach project.

V. UPDATE – STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE FROM OAKMONT

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of BOS Initiatives and Task List

Whitney gave an overview of the task list noting that they had completed 92%, completing 141 of 154 tasks on their list.

Vitone noted that the Special Act Study Committee would be meeting the following Tuesday and that they were looking at tentative closure on the Special Act at this meeting. He stated that the Capital Planning Committee met with Doug Briggs last week and they recommended four projects to fund at \$145,000 which would come out of the Capital Fund in the FY11 Budget. He added that regionalization would be a big factor in the budgeting process.

Vitone stated that the Tax Base Study Committee had met with two developers on wind power and that they are hopeful they can bring in “green power” to the Town.

Whitney stated that at their last meeting, the J.R. Briggs Study Committee agreed upon a 520 student enrollment and 8,500 square feet area although the ledge is a concern. She noted that the Committee would be meeting every two weeks until June and that a fall town meeting would be needed. She added that information would be mailed out to inform the voters and that their next meeting would be on February 10th. Vitone asked if community use and voting were included in the plans and Whitney noted that there was a question on the voting. Vitone stated that they should send a letter to the School Committee to include voting at that location as this is needed.

B. Status of the Liquor License Policy

Briggs stated that this was with Town Counsel for her review. He stated that it would be ready for the next meeting and that the Board would have it before the meeting for their final review.

C. Vote to accept Jonathan Dennehy’s resignation from the Board of Selectmen

Vitone stated that they never officially accepted Dennehy’s resignation. ***Whitney motioned to accept Jonathan Dennehy’s resignation from the Board of Selectmen effective January 1, 2010 and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.***

D. Status of Fire boxes and fees

Vitone stated that discussion on this issue began back in early November and he asked what the status was at this time. Briggs stated that the draft agreement was with Town Counsel for her review and that the budget had already been generated. He stated that they were putting some things in the Capital Plan and they have identified the costs. He added that it would be submitted in time for the next meeting. Vitone noted that the Fire Department should have been more responsive.

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE (Report attached)

Briggs stated that Rich Archer would be attending the ZBA meeting on February 8th and then at that point he would then be ready for appointment.

Briggs noted that Dick Coswell gave his notice of retirement effective today. He thanked Coswell for his many years of service and added that he would be greatly missed.

Vitone noted that Dick had been very committed to the Town and that it was actually a family affair as Mary, his wife, served for many years on the Board of Selectmen as well. Vitone also noted that Coswell would be missed and that he did a lot for the Town.

Briggs stated that he met with Jim Tracy at Cushing Academy explaining the situation with the Water Tank and that Tracy stated that they would consider paying assessments up front for the repair. Briggs noted that an RFP would be put out on the repair.

He stated that the Town received a \$500,000 STRAP Grant for Rindge Turnpike Road and Whitney added that it should be noted Steve Nims worked really hard to get this.

Briggs stated that a Tri-Board meeting would be held on Tuesday February 2nd at 6:30 p.m. at Overlook Middle School and that he would be attending.

Briggs identified Katie Hallowell, who has been volunteering at the Senior Center reaching out to the seniors. He noted KUDOS and thanks to Katie!

He also noted that an MOU with the School District to officially name Oakmont as our emergency shelter would be brought to them for their approval by Mike Zapantis.

He stated that his next negotiations meeting with the Fire Union would be held on February 9th.

Briggs stated that he was just finishing his introductory letter to go along with the proposed FY11 Budget and he wanted to thank the Department Heads for working with him on the numbers.

He noted that he had worked with Fire Chief Zbikowski to remove all the excess vehicles and equipment at So. Station and it looked much better now.

He asked the Board where the Annual Town Meeting would be held this year and Whitney stated that Oakmont would be the preferred location and that they should check with the school on this. Vitone concurred.

The final item in Briggs report was a Keno application by the Firehouse Pub. ***Whitney motioned to support the Firehouse Pub in this application and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.***

VIII NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval – Posting of Offices to be Filled – Annual Town Caucus

Whitney noted that the Caucus would be held on Monday, February 22nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Room at the Stevens Memorial Library. Whitney read the list of offices to be filled, term and incumbents as follows:

Moderator	1 year	Donald J. Lawrence
Town Clerk	3 years	Linda A. Ramsdell
Board of Selectmen	3 years	Vacant
Board of Health	3 years	Glenn Hathaway
		Scott M. Sibley
Planning Board	5 years	Joseph Kalagher
	4 years	Joseph B. Daigle

Library Trustees(2)	3 years	Cheryl A. Audino Paula M. Dowd
Municipal Light Board	3 years	Vacant

Whitney motioned to sign the list as presented and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.

B. Discussion and vote on fee increase for Municipal Lien Certificates

Briggs stated that Carla Clifford, the Tax Collector is asking for this increase as the cost to prepare the lien certificates is more than what has been received. He also noted that most towns charge \$50. ***Whitney motioned to increase the fees for the Municipal Lien Certificates from \$25 to \$50 and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.***

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Cultural Council Appointment

Whitney stated that Theresa Barry, an art teacher at Oakmont, has asked to be appointed to the Cultural Council. ***Whitney made the motion to appoint her and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.***

Whitney made the motion to approve the remaining three items under the Consent Agenda and Vitone seconded. Motion carried.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Whitney read the following announcements from the Town Clerk:

- The census forms have been mailed to each household. Please return them to the Town Clerk by February 4th. If you did not receive one or have any questions, please call the Town Clerk at 978-827-4100 ext. 114.
- Open registration of voters at Town Hall in the Town Clerk's office from January 1st and on.
- February 11th – final voter registration for Citizens Caucus – 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- February 22nd – Citizens Caucus – 7:00 p.m. Community Room at the Stevens Memorial Library.

Other announcements:

- The Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District budget hearings will be held on Tuesday, February 9th and Tuesday February 23rd and their budget certification will be on Tuesday, March 9th.
- The Friends of the Stevens Memorial Library presents Irish Night on Tuesday, March 16th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Seamus Pender, a local musician will perform.
- The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen is on Tuesday, February 16th at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Building in the Training Room. This is due to Presidents Day on Monday, February 15th.

XI. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

Vitone stated that the Board received a letter from Charlie Packard regarding his concerns on the cost of ambulance service versus fees. In response to this Vitone noted that he had asked Briggs to work with the Fire Department to look closely at this and added that this letter was timely.

Whitney also noted the receipt of a letter from Joseph Cormier on behalf of Troop 18 of the Boy Scouts regarding a Community Service Project in Town. Vitone stated that the project could include work around Whitney Pond which would be a great starting point for the Bresnahan building project.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:10 p.m. Whitney motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator