

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FEBRUARY 25, 2010 – 11:30 A.M.
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S OFFICE – TOWN HALL**

At 11:30 a.m. Vitone called the meeting to order.

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

I. Vote on Allocation Method for the Regional School Assessment

Vitone stated that at the Advisory Board meeting on Monday evening, they were asked to vote on the alternative method for the school assessment and now the Selectmen needed to do the same.

Vitone stated that they needed a motion to go with the district allocation method for FY11 and until directed otherwise, to go with the alternative, statutory method in FY12.

Whitney motioned to go with the district allocation method for FY11 and the statutory allocation method for FY12 and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.

Vitone stated that a letter should be sent from Doug Briggs to the School District on their vote and copies sent to the Westminster Board of Selectmen and Advisory Board, Mike Zapantis, and the Ashburnham Board of Selectmen and Advisory Board.

Vitone touched on the 2½ plus growth to the School noting that \$188,000 was set aside in the FY11 budget for this purpose but that the Advisory Board had not made a decision on this yet. Whitney stated that she wanted to wait until the vote by the Advisory Board and to leave it in the budget for now. She added that it was important that the Advisory Board and Board of Selectmen work together.

Vitone stated that they had two very important responsibilities, one was safety and the other was education. He noted that the Town's primary revenue source was the state and that they needed to look at any revenue changes in the combined entities. He added that they should wait to see how the revenue side changes and approach this with fairness. Whitney agreed stating that there was still a lot of uncertainty and that they shouldn't rush into this.

II. Discussion and Vote on the potential change of Annual Town Meeting date from May 1st to May 8th.

Vitone stated that due to the fact that the auditorium at Oakmont was not available for the Annual Town Meeting on Saturday, May 1st, they checked with Town Counsel to see if the meeting date could be moved to the following Saturday, May 8th. Town Counsel stated that it was not an issue.

Whitney made the motion to change the Annual Town Meeting date from Saturday, May 1st to Saturday, May 8th at 10:00 a.m. to be held in the Auditorium at Oakmont Regional High School and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.

Vitone asked Briggs to call Westminster to let them know of this change.

Vitone noted that there were two candidates for the Board of Selectmen position and that they should send them a packet with pertinent information in order to help them prepare for their run for office. Briggs stated that he would also enclose a letter from him offering to help them in any way that he was able.

At 11:50 a.m. Whitney motioned to enter into Executive Session to deliberate upon matters which, if done in open meeting could detrimentally affect the position of the Town regarding collective bargaining (pending and ongoing) and to not reconvene into open session except to adjourn.

At 12:45 p.m. Whitney made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator