

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
APRIL 26, 2010 – 4:30 P.M.  
LOWER LEVEL MEETING ROOM – TOWN HALL**

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At 4:26 p.m. Vitone called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Maggie Whitney.

Present were: Ed Vitone, Chair, Maggie Whitney, Clerk, Doug Briggs, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. Water/Sewer Commissioners in attendance – Dave Berger, Leo Collette and Charlie Packard. Mark Petersen, W/S Superintendent was also present.

Ed Vitone stated that they would discuss Item II first.

II. Discussion with Water/Sewer Commissioners re: Water Tank

Vitone stated that Leo Collette had contacted him regarding some concerns with who should pay for the new water tank. He asked Collette to state his concerns.

Collette noted that he spoke with some Water Dept. employees from Winchendon who stated that they were putting up a water tank there as well and that everyone was going to be assessed not just the users. He noted that his feeling was that everyone should share the cost in Ashburnham as well.

Briggs stated that under MGL betterment fees cannot be charged to municipalities and that only user fees can be charged. He stated that the Town, the schools and Cushing Academy would be paying their proportional share of the user fees. He noted that the cost for the repair of the Gardner Hill Water Tank and the new Water Tank on Meeting House Hill would be 55% as a loan and 45% as a grant. He stated that there were 1,074 users presently and that this would equate to about \$46 a year on the average for the water users for a 40 year period. He noted that his suggestion would be to leave it this way.

Briggs again noted that it would be \$46 a year per household, billed twice a year at \$23. The Water/Sewer Commissioners all agreed that this was acceptable.

I. Discussion and announcement of the Commonwealth's interest in acquiring property in Ashburnham

Vitone stated that they had been contacted by the State to buy the Beals property over several years and that they had the opportunity to get some additional funds to purchase this property sooner and to buy up to 550 acres on Route 12 near the Winchendon line for conservation. He stated that they met with the representative from the State and Mr. Beal and at this meeting they discussed the possible donation of a parcel of land to the Town for the DPW.

He noted that this meeting was called to get the Certificate of Announcement done before the end of the fiscal year. He added that the 120 day waiver period would be decided on if the Town wanted to buy but that they would hold off on this until the Beals decide if they would

donate the 10-15 acre parcel to the Town. He stated that they would wait and see what happens.

Whitney read the announcement as follows:

“In accordance with 301 CMR 51.00, et seq., the Town of Ashburnham hereby certifies that on 26<sup>th</sup> of April, 2010, a public announcement was made at a regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen’s meeting of the Commonwealth’s interest in acquiring up to 6 parcels of land ranging from 24 to 550 acres, or other property interests, in the Town of Ashburnham. A locus map marked “Exhibit A” showing the proposed acquisitions is appended thereto.”

Gary Howland of the Conservation Trust was recognized by Whitney. Howland stated that he had a concern about waiting and that the family was not inclined to the donation. He added that the Selectmen should consider waiving the 120 days and that this has to be done before the end of this fiscal year. Vitone stated that this was duly noted.

***Whitney made the motion to sign the Certificate of Announcement and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.***

Whitney noted Election Day was Tuesday and that everyone should get out and vote.

***At 4:50 p.m. Vitone 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 the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property and to not reconvene into open session except to adjourn. Whitney seconded and the motion carried.***

***At 5:30 p.m. Whitney made the motion to adjourn and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator