

**TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
JUNE 7, 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. Ron Reed was absent.

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 noted that under Presentations they would add the School re: J.R. Briggs Project and that under BOS Correspondence they would add discussion on the VMS Renovation Committee and Eagle Scout Dillon Handy. *Vitone motioned to approve the agenda as amended and was seconded by Whitney. Motion carried.*

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

A. Planning Board discussion on MRPC DLT A Proposals

Planning Board members present were John MacMillan, Joe Daigle, Joe Kalagher, and Bruce Whitney.

MacMillan stated that they were asking the Selectmen for approval to apply for three grant proposals. He noted that they were all 100% grants and no matching funds were required. He stated that the first one was for the re-write of the Open Space Residential Development Bylaws. He stated that the second was to update the Cultural Plan to encourage creative economy in Town. He added that they would collaborate with the Cultural Council on this. The third proposal was to amend or delete or re-write the Development Rate limitation part of the Zoning Bylaws and noted that this was the least critical of the three.

MacMillan stated that these are grant funding sources through MRPC from the State. Vitone noted that the second proposal could be a pull for tourism in Ashburnham.

MacMillan noted that the Planning Board voted for all three proposals. Whitney stated that the three proposals sounded good to her.

Both Whitney and Vitone took a moment to read the letter to be submitted to MRPC on the grant proposals. *Whitney motioned to pursue all three grants and accept them all and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.*

Vitone stated that the Board appreciated all their hard work and thanked them for coming.

Vitone noted that they would come back to the School discussion on the J.R. Briggs Project once Dave Christianson arrived.

V. UPDATE – STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE FROM OAKMONT

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of BOS Initiatives and Task List

Whitney noted that it was all the same and that they would be starting a new report for FY11.

B. Memorial Day Services recap

Whitney stated the Memorial Day services went extremely well and that there were more in attendance than usual. She also mentioned that the Ashburnham Hometown News had an awesome slide show on the services. She noted that Steve Nims and his crew did a great job on the grounds.

Vitone stated that the planners of this event, Joe Gaidanowicz and Dennis Driscoll did a great job and the services were very touching.

C. So. Station Study Committee

Vitone noted that there has only been a committee of two, Maggie Whitney and Bill Johnson for the past year with a recent request to serve from Chief Zbikowski. He stated that it makes more sense to place this with the Town Administrator. He noted that the building is obsolete now with the new Public Safety Building and they would ask Briggs to study this and let them know what he suggests. Briggs added that he may have some short term uses now.

Vitone stated that this Committee dies a natural death at the end of this fiscal year. ***Vitone motioned to declare the So. Station Study Committee as obsolete and to charge Briggs to do an independent study and was seconded by Whitney. Motion carried.***

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE (Report attached)

Briggs noted the current openings on Boards and Committees and Vitone noted the opening on the Capital Planning Committee and that he had contacted Thomas Van Wert to see if he was interested in serving on this Committee. He noted his thanks to Gail Dumont for this suggestion.

Briggs gave an update on the Water Tank Project Schedule and added that this information would be placed on the Town’s website.

He stated that he was just notified today that the new scenario for the carport idea at the Public Safety Building for the solar panels was accepted through the EECBG Grant. He stated that this was an exceptional job by the Light Department and Stan Herriott.

Briggs noted that MIIA insurance gave a very informative presentation to the Department Heads that morning and it went very well. Among other services, he noted that MIIA offers training, seminars, wellness grants and employee counseling which includes financial planning, care of elderly parents etc.

He noted that the 5-year plan for the Town was presented recently to the Advisory Board. He stated that after the evaluations of Department Heads, he would review this plan with them. He thanked Ed Vitone for all his work on this great report.

Briggs noted that the Town Treasurer and Accountant have been doing a great job. He stated that he has set a lofty goal to be the first town in Massachusetts to certify free cash.

He noted that he had spoken with Karen Murphy in Westminster regarding setting meetings this summer with both boards to discuss their many issues.

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

B. School – J.R. Briggs Project

Present was Superintendent Mike Zapantis and School Committee Chair Dave Christianson.

Christianson stated that the J.R. Briggs School Committee had a very successful meeting with the Conservation Commission. He stated that they re-created the design to submit by June 11th. He noted that they were scheduled for a meeting with the MSBA on July 28th for approval of the preliminary design and also on July 14th to discuss the plan and comparative cost. He stated that by late September they would submit the final plans and November 19th back to the MSBA for their final approval.

He stated that they should meet with the Board of Selectmen to discuss the fall Town Meeting. Vitone stated that a fall town meeting would need to be held before the end of December. Briggs stated that once free cash is set they would need a fall town meeting to do some housekeeping.

Christianson stated that the Budget Statement of Educational Objectives was a good faith document to be signed by the Chair of the Board of Selectmen and also by the School Committee and School Superintendent. He added that this is a commitment to bring the project to the voters if the MSBA approves it.

A discussion followed on the three proposals and the new plan which was decided on.

Vitone asked Briggs if he was comfortable with the wording of this document and he stated that he was as it is a standard form from MSBA and that he saw no problem with signing the document.

Whitney motioned to sign the Budget Statement for Educational Objectives as a show of good faith statement of future financial support for the preferred facility solution (new construction) as determined by the Briggs Building Committee for the John R. Briggs Elementary School. Vitone seconded and the motion carried.

Vitone stated that in 3 or 4 weeks they would meet with the School Committee on the planning process and the 5-year financial model for the Town. He added that it would be beneficial for the School Committee to see how it works and comes together. He noted that they would meet with Superintendent Zapantis and the School Committee Chair to start.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Appointments for FY11

Whitney read the list of appointments. The list is as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Nickless & Phillips | Town Counsel |
| Mirick O'Connell | Special Labor Counsel |
| Coppola & Coppola | Special Counsel for Tax Matters |

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| Water/Sewer Commissioner | Leo Collette |
| Parking Clerk | Donna Burton |
| Mt. Watatic Management | Lorraine DeSouza |
| MRPC | Maggie Whitney |
| Historical Commission | Christina Sargent |
| Emergency Mgmt. Comm. | Paul Zbikowski |
| | Larry Barrett |
| | Stan Herriott |
| Cultural Council | Wendy Landry Margo |
| | Joan Hathaway |
| | Rebecca Cinclair |
| | Romayne Timms |
| | Rebecca Rice-Flanagan |
| Constables | Larry Barrett |
| | Ron LaPlante |
| Agricultural Commission | Gary Howland (Associate member) |
| | Christopher Picone (Associate member) |
| Bresnahan Building Comm. | Brenda Brown |
| | John Comeau |
| | Joseph Dennis Cormier |
| | Valorie Daigle |
| | Jane and Eugene Dancause |
| | Dennis Driscoll |
| | Robert Gage |
| | Walter and Mary Anne Handy |
| | Jack Munnis |
| | Harry Powers |
| | Ronald W. Skaife |
| Capital Planning Committee | Bruce Whitney |
| | Anne Cervantes |
| | Gail Dumont |
| | Nancy Haines |
| | Leo Janssens II |
| | James Piedrafite |
| | Ed Vitone |
| Special Act Study Committee | Barbara (Pixie) Brennan |
| | Mark Carlisle |
| | Matthew Christensen |
| | Lorna Fields |
| | Leo Janssens II |
| | Dorothy Munroe |
| | Lois Somers |
| | Ed Vitone |

Whitney motioned to approve the list of appointments as read and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA

Whitney motioned to approve the minutes from the following meetings: May 2, 2010, May 8, 2010, May 17, 2010, and the two meetings of May 25, 2010. Vitone seconded and the motion carried.

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Whitney read the following announcements from the Town Clerk:

- Dog Licenses are now available at the Town Clerk's office. Please note the fees have changed to \$10.00 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$15.00 for unaltered dogs. If registered by mail, please send in current rabies certificate, spay/neuter certificate, and a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Town Clerk's office.
- Effective June 1st a late fee of \$10.00 will be added to each dog license.
- Tuesday – June 15th Special Election – 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at J.R. Briggs Elementary School.
- Absentee ballots deadline is Monday June 14th at noon.

Ashburnham's Annual Downtown Days sponsored by the Ashburnham Business Council will be held on Saturday, June 26th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

On Saturday June 26th at 9:00 a.m., the City of Gardner will be holding a Plaque Dedication Ceremony to commemorate the former convergence point of the towns of Winchendon, Westminster and Ashburnham. This ceremony will take place at the intersection of Central Street, School Street and Lakewood Terrace. This year is the City of Gardner's 225th Anniversary of its incorporation. Both Whitney and Reed stated that they would be attending this ceremony.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Monday, June 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. at the Public Safety Complex in the Training Room.

XI. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

Whitney stated that they should start to form a VMS Renovation Committee as it is a good idea to start this process now. Briggs noted that they should know by July 1st if we received the grant. Vitone stated that they should go forward with the request for members and place this notice on the Town's website.

Whitney stated that the Board of Selectmen was sending the following letter of support and a certificate to Eagle Scout Dillon Handy.

“The Ashburnham Board of Selectmen is proud to acknowledge and congratulate you in your achievement as an Eagle Scout, which is the highest youth honor given by the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

The dedication and many hours of work it took to complete your project at the Athol-Royalston Middle School is outstanding and is something to be extremely proud of.

The Town of Ashburnham recognizes your exceptional efforts in obtaining the rank of Eagle Scout.”

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:00 p.m. Whitney motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator