

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY – OCTOBER 3, 2011 – 6:30 p.m.
TRAINING ROOM – PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

This meeting was aired live on local cable television.

PRESENT: Ed Vitone, Chair, Gregory Fagan, Clerk, Ron Reed, Member, Doug Briggs, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

I. SALUTE THE FLAG

Vitone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vitone noted that in order to accommodate John Fairbanks, who represents both Ashburnham and Westminster in the AWRSD teacher union negotiations they would move up the agenda item XIII – Executive Session. He added that Fairbanks was present to update the Selectmen on the negotiations.

Reed made the motion to approve the agenda with the aforementioned change and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

Vitone stated that the Board of Selectmen would enter into Executive Session to deliberate upon matters, which if done in open meeting would detrimentally affect the position of the Town regarding strategy with respect to collective bargaining (pending or ongoing) and to reconvene into open session.

At 6:35 p.m. Reed made the motion to enter into executive session and was seconded by Fagan. Roll call was taken. Vitone noted that they would recess the meeting and reconvene in about 15 minutes.

At 6:55 p.m. Vitone reconvened the meeting and noted that John Fairbanks gave an update on the school union negotiations. He thanked Fairbanks for his time.

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of BOS Initiatives and Task List

Vitone stated that regionalization between Ashburnham and Ashby is still the only item on the list. He stated that at the end of October both Boards of Selectmen would be meeting to see how things were going.

B. Discussion – October 19, 2011 Special Town Meeting

Briggs stated that there were now nine articles on the warrant. He stated that he added Article 8 to grant a maintenance easement to Investar at the Bresnahan Community Center property. Article 8 read as follows:

“To see if the Town will vote to transfer custody for the purposes of conveying and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey an easement to Investar Renewable Energy, LLC, its heirs and assigns (IRE), in a certain portion of town property, being the same land shown on Assessor’s Maps; Map 58 parcel 25 Center Street and Map 17 parcel 12, said easement to be granted on such terms and conditions as are in the best interests of the town for purposes of allowing IRE access to maintain a solar field on its adjacent land, or act in relation thereto.”

Reed motioned to accept Article 8 on the warrant as presented and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

Reed motioned to recommend Article 8 and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

Briggs then stated that Town Counsel recommended we add Article 9 as follows:

“To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Ashburnham Board of Water Commissioners to enter into a five year contract for the operation and maintenance of the Joint Water Filtration Plant off Lake Road, along with the Town of Winchendon, as contemplated by Chapter 742 of the Acts of 1967, entitled “An Act Authorizing the Joint Ownership and Operation of Certain Municipal Water Supplies by the Towns of Ashburnham and Winchendon”, or act in relation thereto.”

He stated that Town Counsel recommended article 9 to authorize the Water Commissioners to enter into a five year contract with Veolia for the operation and maintenance of the Joint Water Filtration Plant with the Town of Winchendon. He added that this was due to the fact that they are an enterprise now and the Town would be liable. He also noted that it was the exact contract as the previous one.

Reed motioned to accept Article 9 on the warrant as presented and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

Reed motioned to recommend Article 9 and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

A short discussion followed on the proposed easement in Article 8. Johnson asked for a copy of a map showing where the easement would be and Vitone stated that the plot plan is available and he would forward this to him.

Briggs stated that there would be a presentation put on by Cartographics on October 5th at 6:30 p.m. in the Assessors Office at Town Hall, relative to Article 2 on the STM warrant and that everyone was invited to this informative presentation.

Reed stated that they should revisit Article 3 which was the purchase of equipment for the Police Department. ***Reed motioned to approve/recommend Article 3 and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.***

Briggs stated that Article 4, the additional funds for the Veterans Benefits account, may be a problem and he suggested to use free cash, and added that the Town gets 75% back once it’s spent.

Reed motioned to rescind the vote taken on September 19^t for Article 4 and Fagan seconded. Motion carried.

Reed then made the motion to change Article 4 from “raise and appropriate” to a “transfer from free cash” in the amount of \$40,000. Fagan seconded and the motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of appointment to IT Advisory Board

Briggs stated that the IT Advisory Board members recommend the appointment of Ken Hamilton to their Board. He added that Hamilton has a great background and would be an asset to this Board.

Reed motioned to approve the appointment of Ken Hamilton to the IT Advisory Board and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE (Report is attached to these minutes and also posted on the Town’s website.)

Briggs noted that they had two new volunteers on the Parks and Recreation Committee but that there were still openings on the Conservation Commission, Council on Aging, Historical Commission as well as the Capital Planning Committee.

He noted that the work by Nat Gun has been completed at the new Water Tank. He stated that he met with the Historical Commission and talked about the plantings and the tower. He stated that they asked to take down one storage building which is an old trailer but that they were pleased with the overall project. He added that the two monuments in front would be put on the side as an entrance and that according to the Massachusetts Historical Commission the work that has been done is not detrimental to this being an historic area.

Briggs stated that they filled up the lines from High Street to the base of the tank and they did a pressure test and that tested well. He added that both companies did a great job and everyone is pleased.

He noted that unemployment has become a big thing with two claims by individuals who both left voluntarily. He stated that Chief Barrett, his assistant, Kristin Mathieu, and he went to one hearing which was handled by Labor Counsel and that there was another hearing set for the following Wednesday on the second individual.

Briggs stated that he met with the Meissner’s of 100 Main Street, who were still having drainage problems. He also noted that they had some trees damaged due to tropical storm Irene which was worked out with the Conservation Agent. He stated that he met with Marshall Dennis, Conservation Commission Chair, on the Meissner issue and it is moving along.

Briggs gave an update on the CDBG Grant stating that the next week representatives would be conducting surveys in the South Main Street area. Reed stated that he had some volunteers to help with the surveys and Briggs stated that they would let Kevin Flynn at MRPC know that they would be available.

He stated that the Council on Aging had moved upstairs at Town Hall. He noted that the kitchen is an issue according to the Nashoba Boards of Health because of the sinks as well as the warming oven which may not be right. He stated that he has asked the Building Commissioner, Dick Reynolds to look into this as the chief zoning officer.

He added that everyone is excited about the new location and that it looks really nice. He thanked the DPW and W/S employees, Ed Schlott and Maggie Whitney for all they did to make this move possible. Fagan inquired about the funding and Briggs stated that funds were coming from the Friends, the Forever Young Club and the Lions Club as well as from the VMS account.

Fagan commented that they needed more contra dances to get people together again and that they need a long term vision for the Senior Center.

Briggs stated that the Special Town Meeting Warrant would be posted on Wednesday.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 19, 2011 Minutes – Regular Meeting

Reed motioned to approve the minutes for the September 19, 2011 Board of Selectmen meeting and was seconded by Fagan. Vitone abstained. Motion carried.

B. September 26, 2011 Minutes – Joint Meeting with Advisory Board

Reed motioned to approve the minutes for the September 26, 2011 Joint Meeting with the Advisory Board and was seconded by Fagan. Vitone abstained. Motion carried.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

X. OCTOBER MEETINGS

Fagan read the list of meetings for October as follows:

- Council on Aging Board – Tuesday, 10/11/11 – 10:00 a.m. Upstairs Senior Center at Town Hall
- Water/Sewer Commission – Tuesday, 10/11/11 – 6:00 p.m. Lower Level Town Hall
- Conservation Commission – Tuesday, 10/11/11 – 7:30 p.m. Upstairs Town Hall
- Board of Assessors – Wednesday, 10/12/11 – 6:00 p.m. Assessors Office, Town Hall
- Planning Board – Thursday, 10/13/11 – 6:30 p.m. Lower Level Town Hall
- Friends of the COA – Tuesday, 10/18/11 – 6:00 p.m. Lower Level Town Hall
- Joint Mtg. BOS and Adv. Bd. – Wednesday, 10/19/11 – 6:00 p.m. Auditorium – Oakmont Regional High School
- Special Town Meeting – Wednesday, 10/19/11 – 7:00 p.m. Auditorium – Oakmont Regional High School
- Conservation Commission – Monday, 10/24/11 – 6:30 p.m. Lower Level Town Hall
- Historical Commission – Monday, 10/24/11 – 6:30 p.m. Stevens Memorial Library

XI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fagan read the announcements as follows:

Town Clerk Reminders:

- January 1st and throughout the year – Open registration of voters in the Town Clerk's office at Town Hall – Monday from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. and Tuesday through Thursday – 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Town Hall is closed on Fridays.)

- Dog licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours of Town Hall. If you have an unregistered dog, please be aware that a \$25 fine will be issued by the Animal Control Officer within the month.
- Tuesday, October 11, 2011, Final Registration for Special Town Meeting in Town Clerk's office at Town Hall from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- Wednesday, October 19, 2011. Special Town Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Oakmont Regional High School Auditorium.

The Town Hall and the Senior Center will be closed on Monday, October 10, 2011 for the Columbus Day Holiday. Hours on Tuesday, October 11, 2011 will be 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. for Town Hall business and 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for the Senior Center upstairs.

The annual Flu Clinic (flu vaccine only) sponsored by the Nashoba Associated Boards of Health will be held on Tuesday, October 11th, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the Lower Level Meeting Room at Town Hall. It is being held in this location because the Senior Center at the VMS Building will be moved to Town Hall by this date.

Athol Savings Bank will be sponsoring the 3rd Annual Pro-Shred Day to be held on Saturday, October 22nd from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. which will be held in the parking lot in front of Town Hall. This is free onsite shredding for anyone.

Fagan noted that Halloween – Trick or Treat – will be held on Monday, October 31st from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Fagan then read the following announcement from Cushing Academy.

“Cushing Academy will be conducting a test of the campus emergency alert system on Tuesday, October 4, 2011. The Academy wishes to alert the residents of Ashburnham who reside near the campus who may hear the alert that this will only be a test. The purpose of the system is to deliver critical information to the Cushing community in the event of an emergency. When the system is activated it begins with a tone, followed by a voice announcement giving specific instructions regarding the emergency.”

He noted that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

Briggs noted that on Thursday, October 6th Dick Reynolds would be meeting with the Briggs Building Committee.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT

Gail Dumont inquired if the VMS Building would be winterized and Briggs stated that it would.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:30 p.m. Reed motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator