

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY – SEPTEMBER 19, 2011 – 6:30 p.m.
TRAINING ROOM – PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

This meeting was aired live on local cable television.

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

I. SALUTE THE FLAG

Fagan 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

Reed made the motion to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of BOS Initiatives and Task List

Fagan noted that there was nothing new to report.

B. Solar Projects PILOT Program

Briggs stated that at the Board's last meeting it was noted they would check into a number of items regarding these potential projects. He stated that he had discussions with Town Counsel, the Assessors and DOR regarding Ch.59, Sec. 5, Cl. 45. He stated that Town Counsel said that there was no need to accept the construction easement at a Town Meeting but that the permanent easement would need a Town Meeting vote. He explained what the Town could possibly see financially from these projects but that it may be a moot point if no resolution is found. He stated that he should have more information by the following week and added that they may be able to do a TIF which would progressively increase the income for the Town through the years.

Reed stated that maybe they should contact the local legislators for some type of tax relief as other communities have done this. He noted that he didn't want to see the Town miss out on this deal. Fagan added that a lot of towns are doing this and it could mean lost revenues and taxes for the Town. Reed agreed stating that it would benefit the rate payers as it would save dollars on their light bills.

Reed made the motion that the Board of Selectmen establish a PILOT Program based on the Town Administrator's recommendation as presented, which is to go forward with a PILOT of \$50,000 per 2MW installation, contingent upon feedback from Harald Scheid. He added that everybody wins, the Town gets some revenue and the rate payers get a break. Fagan seconded the motion and it was unanimous. Fagan noted that there were a lot of green initiatives in the State right now.

Briggs stated that he suggested they go forward if not resolved and no decision made. Reed agreed stating that they didn't want to miss this opportunity as it's a "win/win" situation. Fagan added that the company should be able to sit and negotiate with the Town.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Special Town Meeting

Briggs stated that the warrant closes on Wednesday, September 21st and that they currently have eight potential articles. He also noted that they would have the free cash number by the meeting which is scheduled for October 19, 2011. He briefly touched on the potential articles noting that the Veterans account was short for the remainder of FY12, the water tank project was short due to an estimated cost of loan, some free cash for road construction in the spring, perhaps to rescind the Quinn Bill, to move funds to either the Capital Improvement Fund or Stabilization Fund, purchase vests and rifles for the police, and updating Assessors maps. He stated that there was a joint meeting posted for Monday, September 26th with the Selectmen and Advisory Board to review the warrant which should be posted by October 3rd and in order to be in line for October 19th.

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

Briggs noted the current openings on Town Committees and Boards and stated that they had two potential new members for the IT Advisory Board. He added that the IT Advisory Board was doing a great job and would be formulating a plan for the installation and networking between Town Hall and the Public Safety Building and would have a recommendation on how to proceed.

He gave an update on the Water Tank Project stating that the tank should be done by this week and that they were hoping to seed by October. He also stated that they would need to test the water lines before the first snowfall. Briggs stated that they are currently under budget and they are doing a great job.

Briggs noted that all major paving has been completed for the fall. He also stated that we have hired Weston & Sampson our engineering firm to do a road analysis for us which would look at usage, location etc., as our current maintenance plan is not accurate. He added that one of our goals is to update the manholes to work in concert with the paving.

He stated that the heating oil bid has been awarded, through the consortium with Gardner, to East River Energy at \$3.1599 per gallon. He stated that the consortium included Gardner, Templeton, Ashburnham, Narragansett Regional School District and Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District. He noted that this was a very good price and is within our budgeted numbers.

He stated that he had met with each department head to go over their reviews and establish goals and objectives for FY12.

He touched on the CDBG FY2012 Grant application which he stated would be a joint application with the Town of Ashby for the reconstruction of South Main Street and housing rehab. He stated that he was pleased to say that it may include not only the sidewalks but also a portion of the road. He noted that income surveys had been mailed by MRPC to all residents in the target area and that 100% participation would be required

to ensure we qualify for the grant. He did add that the information was totally confidential.

Briggs stated that the Joint Water Authority met with Veolia to discuss a contract. He stated that they came back with a good contract with a lower price. He added that Veolia has done a great job for us through the years.

He stated that the second floor of Town Hall has been wired and two new outlets were installed in the kitchen/lounge area to accommodate the refrigerator and a warmer, which has been ordered. He also noted that a double sink would be installed. He stated that Maggie Whitney has done a fantastic job as Interim Director.

He noted that Ed Schlott has been securing bids for the mothballing of the VMS Building and has had four plumbers look at it and will quote a cost. He did add that the center drain in the building will be a problem.

He noted that they have a few unemployment claims that have been filed and the Town has rejected their claims so it will be going to court.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. September 6, 2011 Minutes – Regular Meeting

Reed motioned to approve the minutes for the September 6, 2011 Board of Selectmen meeting and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

Fagan read the following announcement:

“Route 12 in Westminster at Potato Hill and Fred Smith Road will be closed starting Monday, September 26, 2011, for approximately 3 weeks while the State DOT does repairs to the bridge. This is an emergency fix only. Traffic will be detoured using Route 101 and South Ashburnham Road. The State will provide all signage for the detours.”

X. SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER MEETINGS

Fagan read the list of meetings for September as follows:

- **Friends of the COA** – Tuesday, September 20, 2011, 6:00 p.m. – Lower Level Meeting Room at Town Hall
- **Conservation Commission** – Monday, September 26, 2011, 7:00 p.m. – Lower Level Meeting Room at Town Hall.

Fagan recommended that anyone can go to the Town’s website for the October meeting list.

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 Senior Center is moving upstairs at Town Hall during the week of September 26th and should be up and running on October 3, 2011. Their hours will be 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday, closed on Friday.

On Saturday, September 24th – Brian's Gift Road Race – will be held from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This is an annual event for a good cause. A scarecrow contest will also be held and prizes will be awarded.

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 at 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.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Monday, October 3, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:15 p.m. Reed motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator