

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
JOINT MEETING - BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND ADVISORY BOARD
MONDAY – SEPTEMBER 26, 2011 – 6:30 p.m.
TRAINING ROOM – PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

PRESENT: Gregory Fagan, Clerk; Ron Reed, Member, Doug Briggs, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. Ed Vitone was absent. Also in attendance - Advisory Board Members – Bill Johnson, Chair, Duncan Phyfe, and Gail Dumont. (It was noted that they did not have a quorum present.) Linda Ramsdell, Town Clerk was also in attendance.

Before the official meeting was called to order, Gail Dumont, who is also a member of the Briggs Building Committee asked that a Selectman attend their meetings in order to keep the Board informed of their progress. Reed stated that he would make every effort to attend their meetings. Dumont stated their meetings were scheduled for the following dates and would be held in the Library at Overlook Middle School at 6:30 p.m.:

Thursday, October 6, 2011
Wednesday, October 12, 2011
Thursday, October 27, 2011
Thursday, November 20, 2011

▪ REVIEW WARRANT ARTICLES FOR OCTOBER 19, 2011 SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Ron Reed called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. and stated the purpose of this meeting was to discuss the proposed articles for the October 19, 2011 Special Town Meeting.

Doug Briggs noted that the free cash amount would be approximately \$230,000. He added that the free cash came from accounts being under-spent, higher than anticipated revenues from motor vehicle excise, and extra funds in the Health Insurance account. He stated the bottom-line was more revenue and less expense.

Article 1.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, a sum of money to be added to account #25450-59175 for the cost of interest on the Water Tank Project temporary loan, or act in relation thereto.

Briggs stated that the amount had been guesstimated lower than the actual cost of the interest and that it would be taken out of water revenues and the rates would not be raised.

Fagan motioned to approve Article 1 to be placed on the warrant and to recommend the article. Reed seconded and the motion carried.

Article 2.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, such sums of money to update the Assessors maps, or act in relation thereto.

Briggs stated that the Assessors maps are not correct and need to be updated to go forward with GIS. He added that the \$3,000, which would be transferred from Free Cash, is in addition to the \$8,000 grant that we received. He stated that he is meeting with the Assessors and the map people to review this grant. He did note that there has been a lot of effort by Harald Scheid and RRG to re-survey the properties in Town.

Fagan made the motion to approve Article 2 to be placed on the warrant and to recommend the article. Reed seconded and the motion carried.

Article 3.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, such sums of money to purchase equipment for the Police Department as follows:

- (5) Bushmaster .223 cal. Rifles with accessories
- (1) Glock Model 27
- (14) Level-2 bullet resistant vests
- Related miscellaneous equipment

Or act in relation thereto.

Briggs stated that the rifles would be replacements for the present rifles and would be an upgrade in technology. He noted that he supported this as a non capital expense. He stated that the Glock would be a spare and the vests, one per officer, would be replacing the current vests. In addition, he noted that the miscellaneous equipment included replacing handcuffs, holsters, glock holsters, etc.

Bill Johnson inquired if we had rifles and shotguns now in their vehicles and questioned the need for the new rifles. Reed stated that they keep rifles in their trunk. Dumont questioned if the article could only include the vests or maybe to break it out. Briggs stated that 50% of the vest costs would be reimbursed from a grant. Some discussion followed on this article.

Fagan motioned to approve the placement on the warrant but not to recommend at the present time. Reed seconded and added that they would need more information before they could recommend. Motion carried.

Article 4.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, such sums of money to be added to account #15543-57700 to cover unanticipated Veterans Benefits for the remainder of FY12, or act in relation thereto.

Briggs stated that the Town has three additional veterans as well as healthcare expenses for FY12 at this time and this account would be run out of funds in two or three months. Reed suggested that they increase the requested amount of \$33,500 to \$40,000 as we may get other veterans as well with our soldiers coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan. Briggs noted that the Town does get 75% back from the state and that this article would be to raise and appropriate.

Reed made the motion to raise the amount for Article 4 to \$40,000. Fagan seconded and motioned to approve the placement on the warrant and to recommend the article with the modification to \$40,000. Reed seconded and the motion carried.

Article 5.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from available funds, such sums of money for the reconstruction of town roads, or act in relation thereto.

Article 6.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from available funds, such sums of money to be transferred to the Capital Improvement Fund, or act in relation thereto.

Article 7.

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or appropriate by transfer from available funds, such sums of money to be transferred to the Stabilization Fund, or act in relation thereto.

Briggs stated that they would transfer some of the Free Cash for roads in the amount of \$125,000 and it would be used in the spring. He noted that it costs \$300,000 to reclaim one mile of road.

He also noted that article 6 would be a transfer from free cash of \$40,000 to Capital Improvement and Article 7 would transfer \$40,000 from free cash to the Stabilization Fund.

Fagan motioned to approve placement of Articles 5, 6 and 7 on the warrant and was seconded by Reed. Motion carried. It was noted by Fagan that they would have more information for their recommendation at the Special Town Meeting.

Article 8.

To see if the Town will vote to rescind acceptance of M.G.L. Chapter 41, §108L, Career Incentive Pay Program for Police Officers, the so-called Quinn Bill, which was accepted under Article 12 at the April 3, 1999 Annual Town Meeting; and to set the implementation date for such rescission of acceptance of M.G.L. Chapter 41, §108L as July 1, 2012; and to further authorize the Board of Selectmen and/or Town Administrator to take such action, including the filing of a petition with the general court for special legislation, as may be deemed necessary to confirm such revocation is effective; or take any other action relative thereto.

Briggs stated that they have been waiting to see what would happen this year with this issue. Reed stated that they should probably wait until the Annual Town Meeting in May and Briggs noted that it wouldn't hurt to wait and added that some towns have been paying, as communities are getting worn down. Reed noted they should wait for the Annual Town Meeting on this article. Briggs added that the Town has been hiring non-Quinn officers now so at some point the Quinn will go away but that we will have some type of educational incentive in its place. Fagan noted that there were a lot of unknowns at this time and agreed with Reed that they should wait until May.

Reed called for a motion on Article 8 and there was none so this article would not be placed on the Special Town Meeting warrant.

It was noted by Briggs that a meeting should be set up with the Capital Planning Committee on articles 5, 6 and 7. He also stated he would get actual numbers on current amounts in the Stabilization Fund and Capital Improvement fund.

At this time, Johnson brought up the discussion on the grant application by the Fire Department noting that they did not meet with anyone on this. Briggs noted that this grant should have been a part of the Capital Plan as it involves vehicles (where to store them) and that both boards should have reviewed this with them.

Briggs stated that the Building Commissioner, Dick Reynolds, mentioned that he may need more hours with all the projects going on in town this year. He noted that right now Reynolds has scheduled hours on Monday.

Dumont noted that the Briggs project hasn't been placed out to bid yet, and that they were looking at December, and breaking ground in about the third week of January. Briggs noted that there may be a potential issue with soil removal and placing it back. There was a short discussion that followed on the Briggs Project and the soil removal issue.

▪ **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Turcotte
Assistant to the Town Administrator