

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
JOINT MEETING - BOARD OF SELECTMEN AND ADVISORY BOARD
TUESDAY – APRIL 19, 2011 – 6:30 p.m.
TRAINING ROOM – 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. Also in attendance - Advisory Board Members – Bill Johnson, Chair, Duncan Phye and Meredith Fagan. (It was noted that they did not have a quorum present.)

I. SALUTE THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Maggie Whitney. Vitone called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

II. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Briggs stated that they would add one more item to the agenda regarding a property foreclosure. ***Whitney motioned to approve the agenda as amended and was seconded by Vitone. Motion was unanimous.***

Briggs stated that a resident who had his property foreclosed on by the Town has asked Anne Cervantes, the Town Treasurer, how he can secure his home. Cervantes had made a list of all fees, interest, etc. and recommended that if all is paid by the end of the fiscal year, which would be a total of \$32,000 to the Town, that they could go forward with this agreement. ***Whitney motioned to allow the process to return this property to the resident as stipulated and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.***

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of BOS Initiatives and Task List

Vitone stated that regionalization is still the Board's goal and it is still pending with Ashby.

B. Final preparation for the May 7, 2011 Annual Town Meeting

Also present for this agenda item was Debbie Phillips, Town Counsel, Jeff Lawrence, Moderator and Linda Ramsdell, Town Clerk.

Briggs touched on each article. Article 1 had no change.

He noted that Article 2 was changed per Town Counsel to read as follows: "To see if the Town will vote to adopt the local option for assessment pursuant to G.L. c. 71, Sec. 16B, paragraph 4, to reallocate the sum of Ashburnham's required local contributions to the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District in accordance with the regional agreement; or act in relation thereto." He noted that they needed to alter the approach and Deb Phillips explained the motion. ***Vitone motioned to rescind the previous "yes" vote for Article 2 and with the new verbiage in this article, change the vote to a "no" under the Board of Selectmen recommendation and Whitney seconded. Motion carried.*** It was noted by Johnson that the Advisory Board recommendation would be determined at Town Meeting.

Briggs stated that someone from Westminster will want to speak at the Town Meeting and that the Board of Selectmen would do a presentation.

Briggs noted that Articles 3, 4, and 5 had no changes. He stated that Article 6 was dependent on the votes on Articles 2 and 3. He added that if Article 2 is voted “yes” then Article 6 would be passed over. Briggs noted that Articles 7 through 23 had no changes.

At Article 24, Vitone explained the Bylaw for Capital Planning Committee and that they needed to recommend this borrowing with a formal vote. He gave the background as to how this was missed previously noting that at the Town Meeting their recommendation was never made on the Briggs borrowing. He stated that they need a vote to affirm the Capital Planning Committee recommendation in order to go forward with the borrowing. Briggs added that they didn’t need the money now but a Special Town Meeting before the Annual Town Meeting would be the way to proceed with this. He stated that they would set up this article as a Special Town Meeting vote.

Debbie Phillips gave a brief history on her discussion with Bond Counsel and how they should proceed.

Whitney motioned to have a Special Town Meeting with this article to affirm the Capital Planning Committee recommendation and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.

Whitney motioned to recommend this article and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.

Briggs stated that Deb Phillips noted that they should consider using a consent calendar for one vote on the customary annual articles and that it would be a hand-out at the meeting. Vitone noted that they could place a short explanation after each article on this hand-out. Phillips stated that the presentation would be the “customary articles each year”. Briggs stated that the following articles would be listed on the Consent Calendar – 1, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13 and 21.

Whitney motioned to support the Consent Calendar and Vitone seconded. Motion carried.

Briggs acknowledged the huge amount of time and effort by Vitone on the assessment issue for this meeting.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Adoption of Policy – Stopping Traffic for Voluntary Donations for Non-Profit Organizations

Briggs stated that he reached out to different communities to see what policies were in place and chose the one before the Board. He noted that he looked at non-profits directly related to the Town and this one worked best for Ashburnham. ***Whitney motioned to adopt the new Stopping Traffic for Voluntary Donations for Non-Profit Organizations Policy and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.***

B. Vote to appoint two new members to the William J. Bresnahan Scouting & Community Center Building Committee

Briggs stated that Joe Daigle and Christine Gammell were the two asking to be appointed to this Committee. He also noted that the Committee approved these appointments. ***Whitney motioned to approve the two appointments and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.***

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Briggs noted that there were still openings on the following Boards and Committees: (2) Conservation Commission; (2) Council on Aging Board; (1) Historical Commission; (1) Advisory Board and that these were all listed on the Volunteer Opportunities page on the Town Website. Vitone also noted that there was an open position on the ballot for the Planning Board and that if there isn’t a write-in vote then the Planning Board can nominate.

Briggs noted that the schedule was on track for the Water Tank project and added that the preliminary bids were coming in under budget.

Briggs stated that the final number set for Chapter 90 monies was \$349,927 and that this would make the total available for street repairs at \$600,000 for FY12. He noted the following:

- Reclaim and pave Corey Hill Road and South Main Street with sidewalk
- Overlay –
 - Westminster Road from Oakmont to past the American Legion
 - Center Street from Richardson to Cross Streets
 - Central Street by the Post Office
- New culvert for Ferin Road
- Pipe for Ashby Road

He also noted that Rt. 101 north would be paved through funding from the State which was a \$2M project.

Briggs noted that the CDBG Grant award notice for the Senior Center final designs would be made either at the end of May or early June.

He stated that he met with several residents from South Main Street on the condition of the playground and their street in general. He stated that they would be reaching out to area businesses and organizations such as the Lions Club and the Rotary for assistance once they generate a list of what needs to be done.

Briggs also noted that he would be sending out the RFP for the Water Treatment Plant some time in May.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 4, 2011 – Regular Meeting

Vitone motioned to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2011 and it was seconded by Whitney. Motion was unanimous. It was noted by Vitone that Maggie Whitney did a great job with these minutes as she graciously covered for Sylvia Turcotte who was ill and not in attendance at this meeting.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Whitney read the announcements as follows:

Whitney noted that the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce would be honoring Sallie Thoma, a resident of Ashburnham, with a Community Service Award on Wednesday, May 11th at the Colonial Hotel at 5:45 p.m. The Board expressed their congratulations to Sallie.

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 thru Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Town Hall is closed on Friday)*
- *Tuesday, April 19, 2011- Final registration for the Annual Town Meeting at Town Clerk's office from 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.*
- *Monday, April 25, 2011 – 12:00 noon last day to file applications for absentee ballots for voters who will be out of town for town election.*
- *Tuesday, April 26, 2011- Town Election – Polls open at 9:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. at the J.R. Briggs Elementary School Gym, 96 Williams Road.*
- *Saturday, May 7, 2011 – Annual Town Meeting at 10:00 a.m.*
- *Dog licenses are available at the Town Clerk's office during regular business hours of Town Hall. The fees are \$10.00 for spayed/neutered dogs and \$15.00 for unsprayed/unneutered dogs. Please bring the dog's current rabies certificate. You may register by mail by sending*

in the paperwork along with a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Town Clerk's office, 32 Main Street.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Monday, May 2, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Complex.

XI. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT

Meredith Fagan inquired about who to contact regarding the Memorial Day parade and she was told to contact Joe Gaidanowicz. Sylvia Turcotte stated that she would send her the contact information for Gaidanowicz.

At this time Maggie Whitney gave a short "thank you" speech as this was her last meeting as Selectman. She stated that she enjoyed her term as Selectman but now she was looking forward to spending more time with her husband. Vitone stated that Whitney was "incredibly wired with the community" and she understood the needs and thanked her for her service, adding that he enjoyed working with her. Briggs thanked her noting that "she made things interesting".

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:45 p.m. Whitney 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 approval of Executive Session meeting minutes and to not reconvene into open session except to adjourn. Vitone seconded and roll call was taken.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sylvia Turcotte
Assistant to the Town Administrator