

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

This meeting was aired live on local cable television.

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

I. SALUTE THE FLAG

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Ed Vitone. Vitone called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Vitone stated that they would add the approval of minutes for the May 31, 2011 Special Meeting under VIII Approval of Minutes. He also noted that there were two items added under IX - BOS Correspondence; Puffer St. Block Party request and the Regional Agreement Study Team. *Fagan made the motion to approve the agenda as amended and was seconded by Reed. Motion carried.*

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

A. Pinning Ceremony and Recognition as Employee of the Year – Paul Rekos

It was noted by Briggs that they would wait until later in the meeting for this agenda item.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of BOS Initiatives and Task List

Vitone stated that there was still one item, regionalization discussions with Ashby. He noted that he sent an email to the Ashby Board of Selectmen and was awaiting a response.

B. Memorial Day Services

Briggs noted his thanks to all Town employees who worked so diligently to prepare for the Memorial Day services. He stated that the cemeteries were beautiful. He also recognized Ed Schlott, the Town Hall Custodian, for all his work in setting up for these services at Town Hall. He stated that the DPW crew did a great job.

Reed stated that there was a nice crowd and the services went very well. Fagan noted that it was all just perfect and very touching and expressed his thanks to all. Vitone stated that it was a pleasure to march in the parade.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Vote on Massachusetts Fire Districts 7 & 8 Mutual Aid Agreements

Briggs stated that they should put this off as well until the Fire Department personnel arrive.

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Briggs began his report by stating that they were asking for volunteers to serve on the Parks & Recreation Committee to help refurbish the playgrounds and parks in Town. Vitone added that if anyone was interested in serving the community, serving on this Committee would be a good place to start. Fagan stated that he knows of a number of potential volunteers and that this creates an infectious attitude.

Briggs gave an update on the Water Tank project stating that it was on schedule and that they were already working on the borrowing. He stated he was approached with some concerns regarding the trees being cleared for the water tank. He noted that after the project is completed there would be landscaping done to beautify the area and to make the area blend in.

Briggs then noted that a new Town Accountant was selected to replace Nancy Haines. Vitone went over the process involved in this selection. He explained that the job was posted and advertised in local papers, and how they had a number of applicants. He stated after the screening process, they had three finalists and added another two very qualified candidates for the final interviews and one candidate was chosen, Donna Couture. Couture has accepted the position and will start on July 1st. She has 19 years of municipal experience and is state certified. He noted that all the five finalists were excellent.

Briggs stated that he met on May 19th with the 250th Celebration Committee to talk about how their plans were shaping up and also to answer any questions they might have on how to they should proceed. He stated that he appreciates all the time it takes to develop all the activities with the event four years away. Reed mentioned that they should check into the Hoffman 2015 Trust Fund and how these funds could be spent for the event. He also noted that they could check with Town Counsel on how to spend this money as there is approximately \$14,000 in the fund. Briggs stated that he would check on this.

He stated that Paul Rekos was promoted to Captain in the Fire Department and that he has worked extremely hard to meet all the requirements.

Briggs again stated the need for volunteers to serve on the Parks & Recreation Committee to work on the repairs etc. needed at the Town playgrounds. He noted that he would be working with the DPW as well as residents on this project.

He gave the Board an update on the Water Treatment Plant RFP stating that it was posted on the Central Register on June 1st and that there have been several inquiries.

Briggs stated that no announcement has been made yet on the CDBG Grant for the VMS Building renovation but that he is hopeful. He noted that the seniors are enthusiastic about the move to the upstairs at Town Hall during the upcoming winter and hopefully during the renovation period of the VMS Building if the grant is approved.

He stated that all departments have been working to use their FY11 vacation time and he is hopeful that next year it will be better managed.

He stated that he had been holding off a little on going out for the oil bid to see the prices settle down at lower rates. He noted that he also asked the school and the Library to join in on the oil bid when he does go out.

He noted that he is suggesting in the months of July and August that the Board of Selectmen meet on the first Monday of the month only, adding that any other meetings that are required could be scheduled accordingly. It was decided, after a short discussion, that the July meeting would be held on the 11th and the August meeting on the 8th, at the Public Safety Building at 6:30 p.m. It was also noted that they would meet on Monday, June 20th at 6:30 p.m. at the Public Safety Building to vote on the borrowing for the Water Tank Project.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 16, 2011 Minutes – Regular Meeting

Reed motioned to approve the minutes of the May 16, 2011 Regular Meeting and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

B. May 31, 2011 Minutes – Special Meeting

Fagan motioned to approve the minutes of the May 31, 2011 Special Meeting and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

Vitone stated that the Board received a request from Polly Buckwalter Gibson, a former Puffer Street resident, to allow a Block Party for current and past residents of Puffer Street on August 13th. Briggs stated that he checked with the Fire, Police and DPW and there were no comments except for the Police Chief who noted that this might set a precedent. The Board discussed detour signs and the use of the Town Barn lot for parking and they asked Briggs to check with the Little League to find out what their schedule was for the month of August. **Reed made the motion to support the Town Administrator's recommendation to approve the Puffer Street Block Party on Saturday, August 13th. Fagan seconded and the motion carried. All members were unanimously in favor.**

Vitone also noted an email that he received from Dave Christianson advising him that they would be setting up a team/committee to study the regional agreement specifically the allocation method and to work on an amendment to this section of the agreement.

Briggs stated that they received a request for a hardship abatement approval on an ambulance bill in the amount of \$907. The insurance paid \$400 and the individual paid \$200 leaving a balance of \$307 which he recommended that the Board approve for abatement. **Reed motioned to accept the Town Administrator's recommendation and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.**

Briggs added one more item for the Board's vote and that was to appoint one Selectman as a representative on the MART Advisory Board, noting that this Board meets quarterly. **Reed motioned to appoint Greg Fagan as the Selectmen's representative on the MART Advisory Board and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.**

X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fagan read the announcements as follows:

Town Clerk Announcements

- 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.

Fagan announced Downtown Days on Saturday, June 25th from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and the Lions Club Chicken BBQ from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Vitone noted that this event is a lot of fun and he encouraged everyone to attend.

He noted that the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen would be held on Monday, June 20, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

Briggs responded to a few residents who questioned why the flags were not on the poles on Main Street. He stated that they had been damaged by trucks but would be up for Downtown Days.

At this time the members of the Fire Department were present to witness the pinning of Paul Rekos as Captain. Paul Rekos' wife, Tracy, was also present.

Jerry Descoteaux gave a brief explanation on the Mutual Aid Agreements before the Board for their approval, stating that these agreements were with surrounding communities where

they cover each other when needed. Reed inquired what the difference was between the two agreements in question. Descoteaux stated that the District 8 agreement covers the core region while District 7 would cover areas further out in the state depending on the incident size. ***Reed motioned to approve both agreements as presented and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.***

Descoteaux stated that they were here to recognize Paul Rekos for his achievement as Employee of the Year as well as his promotion to Captain. He stated that Rekos worked really hard to earn his certifications and that he sets an example for his peers. He stated that Rekos' leadership abilities were shown at the Cushing fire a few months ago and he is very well respected by all. Briggs stated the he was very impressed by the thoroughness and completion of the process regarding leadership training and he thanked Jerry Descoteaux for the great job he does for the Town. It was noted by Descoteaux that they now have an opening for the Lieutenant position.

At this time Chief Zbikowski came forward along with Paul Rekos, and stated that they were very proud of Rekos and added that this was the first time that they ever had a pinning ceremony at a Board of Selectmen meeting. He then asked Tracy Rekos to come forward to do the pinning.

Chief Zbikowski then noted that congratulations also should be given to Captain Rick Sicard who today started as the Fire Chief in Harvard. Zbikowski stated that credit should be given to Descoteaux and the great training program he puts on. The Chief added that Sicard will be staying on as Captain here although his time may be limited.

Vitone noted that when another community looks on one of ours it is very complimentary. He congratulated Sicard for his new position in Harvard.

XI. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:23 p.m. Reed motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator