

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY – JULY 11, 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 he 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

A. Presentation of Boston Post Cane Certificate to Frances L. Godfrey

Present were Frances L. Godfrey and many family members and friends, and Linda Ramsdell, Town Clerk.

Linda Ramsdell gave a short history of the Boston Post Cane through the years. She noted that Frances Godfrey, who is 98 years “young”, was Ashburnham’s oldest citizen. She stated that Ms. Godfrey has resided in Ashburnham since 1933 and presently lives at Ashley Court. Ron Reed presented the certificate to Ms. Godfrey who was genuinely pleased by this award.

B. Town Treasurer, Anne Cervantes – approval of borrowing for new J.R. Briggs Elementary School Project

Vitone stated that they would wait for Anne Cervantes to arrive for this agenda item.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of BOS Initiatives and Task List

Vitone stated the one item was regionalization with Ashby. He stated that he met with Peter McMurray, the Chair of the Ashby Board of Selectmen last week. He noted that they would discuss this in Executive Session tonight. He went on to state that sharing Doug Briggs with Ashby for this three month period would hopefully bring about regionalization opportunities and that his thought would be to pay a part of the tax levy with the savings so that taxes wouldn’t be so drastic for our taxpayers once Briggs is added in 2013. Fagan noted that they should inform the taxpayers of the actual impact to their taxes.

IV. PRESENTATIONS AND REPORTS (continued)

B. Town Treasurer, Anne Cervantes – approval of borrowing for new J.R. Briggs Elementary School Project

With the arrival of Anne Cervantes, Vitone asked her to give the Board a brief overview of the borrowing presented for their approval. Cervantes stated that they were renewing the borrowing for the feasibility study (\$400k) and rolling it over for one year. She added that the interest rate was 1½% with Eastern Bank.

Fagan read the vote as follows:

“I, the Clerk of the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Ashburnham, Massachusetts, certify that at a meeting of the board held July 11, 2011, of which meeting all members of the board were duly notified and at which a quorum was present, the following votes were unanimously passed, all of which appear upon the official record of the board in my custody:

Voted: to approve the sale of a \$3,400,000 1.50 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note (the “Note”) of the Town dated July 22, 2011, and payable July 20, 2012, to Eastern Bank at par and accrued interest, if any , plus a premium of \$19, 137.09.

Further Voted: that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Note, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated July 7, 2011, and a final Official Statement dated July 11, 2011, each in such form as may be approved by the Town Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.

Further Voted: that the consent to the financial advisor bidding for the Note, as executed prior to the bidding for the Note, is hereby confirmed.

Further Voted: that the Town Treasurer and the Board of Selectmen be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a significant events disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the Town, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Note for the benefit of the holders of the Note from time to time.

Further Voted: that each member of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

I further certify that the votes were taken at a meeting open to the public, that no vote was taken by secret ballot, that a notice stating the place, time and agenda for the meeting (which agenda included the adoption of the above votes) was filed with the Town Clerk and a copy thereof posted in a manner conspicuously visible to the public at all hours in or on the municipal building that the office of the Town Clerk is located or, if applicable, in accordance with an alternative method of notice prescribed or approved by the Attorney General as set forth in 940 CMR 29.03(2)(b), at least 48 hours, not including Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, prior to the time of the meeting and remained so posted at the time of the meeting, that no deliberations or decision in connection with the sale of the Note were taken in executive session, all in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §§18-25 as amended.

Dated: July 11, 2011”

Reed motioned to approve the borrowing as presented. Fagan seconded and motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of the Brian's Gift Road Race scheduled for September 24, 2011

Briggs noted that this request was submitted by Judy Simmons for the use of Winchester Park, Stevens Memorial Library Grounds and the Senior Center and that it includes a road race, food, auctions, etc. He also stated that both Chiefs were contacted and had no issues with this event. Reed noted that this annual event is for a wonderful cause and that last year the money was donated to local food pantries.

Fagan motioned to approve the Brian's Gift Road Race of September 24, 2011 and was seconded by Reed. Motion carried.

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Briggs began by stating that the Town Administrator's reports were all posted on the Town's website.

Briggs stated that there are openings for volunteers on a number of boards and committees and these are listed on the Town's website.

He noted that the water tank project was on schedule. He stated that on Wednesday of this week a 275 ton crane would be coming to the site and that it was suggested that the best route would be Route 140 to Route 12 and then Lashua Road. Reed inquired if the landscaping would encompass the stone work when completed and Briggs stated that he was working with the Historical Commission to assure it is done right. Fagan inquired about the old tank and Briggs stated that they would implode the old tank and then cover it and he was also working with the Historical Commission on a placard to place at the site.

Briggs stated that they received the results of the asphalt, reclaiming, milling bids and the recommendation for awards from Steve Nims, DPW Superintendent. They were as follows:

P.J. Keating	Bituminous Concrete in place	\$64.70/ton
P.J. Albert	Reclaiming	\$1.74/sq. yd.
Garrity Asphalt Pavement	Milling	\$1.95/sq. yd.

Briggs stated that he would recommend the Board approves these awards. ***Reed motioned to approve the recommendations as presented and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.***

He touched on Route 101 North stating that the bids for this project are to be opened on July 27th and once this is done, the project would move forward at the State's pace but should be done some time in FY12. He added that they were working to get this project done from Main Street to a point on 101.

Briggs stated that he had attended a meeting at MRPC where they discussed their future involvement in regionalization, such as a planner position. He added that MRPC was working on this with many towns.

He stated that he and some Department Heads attended a meeting held by the architect for the Briggs Project, Lamoureux and Pagano which was held to inform the different departments of the overall plan and to solicit their input. He noted that they would be holding a follow-up meeting.

Briggs stated that we did not get the FY11 CDBG Grant. He stated that they are now working on the FY12 CDBG grant application and that he was hoping to get So. Main Street paved and the playgrounds repaired. He added that the application has to be submitted by December 16th. He also noted that they would be looking for regional projects and Vitone stated that we needed to partner with other communities for a Regional Senior Center. Reed stated that we should write letters to our senators noting that grant awards should be based on need, not automatic. Fagan stated that it shows the need to not rely on grants and to be more self-sufficient. Vitone stated that they should have a meeting maybe in August to brainstorm on the Town needs and to get our priorities in order.

He stated that the bids were opened on July 6th on the Water Treatment Plant operation and that they had two bidders, Veolia and United Water. He added that the pricing bids will be opened at the AWRJA meeting on July 20, 2011.

Briggs stated that Joe Olivari was working on the electrical portion of the COA move to Town Hall along with Claude Daigle. He also stated that he had talked with Rick Metcalf, our Health Agent about the kitchen needs. Fagan voiced his concerns regarding the fact that the upstairs at Town Hall was a public meeting place and should be open to everyone. There was a short discussion regarding this issue.

Briggs noted that he checked on the Board's concern about loaning the Town's Weights & Measures to the Historical Society for their exhibit and he found the building to be free of water damage and sound. He stated that it was a good location and he would recommend an agreement to move forward with their request. ***Reed motioned to go forward with the MOA with the Historical Society for the Weights and Measures and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.***

Briggs stated that he provided the Board with school data information from annual town reports in 1965 and in 2010 and it was evident that they have cut down on the information being submitted for the annual report. He noted that the 1965 era information proved to be very valuable and he recommends that they solicit the support of Westminster and inform the AWRSD that we want to receive the level of detail shown in 1965 for historical purposes. The Board was unanimously in favor of this request.

He also stated that he approved a hardship abatement on an ambulance bill in the amount of \$103.37 from 2009.

Briggs stated that he compiled a list of all boards and committees for the Board's consideration in scheduling updates at their meetings. Vitone noted that they would want updates from the boards and committees that they appoint which would be a total of six. Fagan stated that he would like updates.

He noted that he would request that at their next meeting the Board sign the agreement with Westminster to share the Animal Control Officer position.

Briggs stated that the Board was being asked to sign the Gordon Erickson Fund form for the matching monies (\$3,201) for the federal grant (\$64,030) which we received, to purchase the Thermal imaging, airbags, jaws of life and gas meters, and to accept the gift. Fagan motioned to accept the gift and to transfer the funds from the Gordon Erickson Fund. Reed seconded and the motion carried.

Finally, Briggs noted that he would be on vacation from August 1st through the 5th and that in his absence Sylvia Turcotte would be in charge.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 20, 2011 Minutes – Regular Meeting

Fagan motioned to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2011 - Regular Meeting and was seconded by Reed. Motion carried.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

Vitone expressed kudos to the Police Department for their quick response to a call from his 88 year old neighbor who fell and was able to get to a phone and dial 911 only to lose the connection. The Police came anyway to the residence and as first responders were able to assist the neighbor. He stated that this was a great job by our Police and Dispatch Departments.

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.

The Council on Aging has a Half Day Deep Sea Fishing Men Only Trip planned for Monday, August 22nd with a rain date of Wednesday, August 24th. The cost is \$43.00 per person and this includes the van, rod rental and bait. You will leave the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. and you should bring your own picnic lunch. You will board the boat at 1:00 p.m. and return at 5:30 p.m. with a stop on the way home for dinner at your own expense. You can sign up at the Senior Center or call Mary Lajoie with any questions at 978-827-4882. Payment is due by Monday, July 22, 2011.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Monday, August 8, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

XI. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:25 p.m. 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 contract negotiations for non-union employees and to not reconvene into open session except to adjourn. Reed made the motion to recess the meeting and was seconded by Fagan.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:55 p.m. Reed motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Vitone. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator