

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
TUESDAY – JANUARY 3, 2012 – 6:30 p.m.  
TRAINING ROOM – PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

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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 led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT      No input.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Reed motioned to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.*

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion and vote on support of Town of Erving's Letter re: Bill #00200

Briggs gave a brief summary of the bill noting that it would give the people an opportunity to voice their vote and that he thought it was a good idea.

Fagan stated that his view was that it would be no different than the current structure and that it adds more risk and takes away the voice of small towns. He noted that he was not in favor of supporting this bill. Reed stated that this goes against his thinking and that he agrees with Fagan. He added that it is a fascinating subject but that he won't support Erving's letter. Vitone also stated that he was not in favor of the bill.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

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

Briggs began by thanking the Board for allowing him to take the past week off for vacation as he enjoyed the time with his family.

He stated that there were openings on the following Boards and Committees: (2) Conservation Commission and (2) Historical Commission.

Briggs gave an update on the water tank noting that the control building was completed and the tank was filled and ready for the turnover as all the water tests passed. He stated that residents would be notified this week via the reverse 911 system that the water pressure could increase by up to 20-25 lbs. He noted that this would take place hopefully no later than Monday of next week. He also noted that they would start the slow drain of the old tank.

Reed voiced his concern on the increase in pressure and Vitone concurred. He stated that 80 lbs. was normal and that this could be an issue. He asked Briggs to look into this with the Water/Sewer Commissioners and that he should also check with the Plumbing Inspector on any code.

Briggs stated that he would be attending along with Chief Barrett and Sgt. Conrad, the unemployment hearing for a former employee on Friday, January 6<sup>th</sup>. He added that hopefully this would be the final hearing on this claim.

He stated that Tim Kelly from Comcast would be in attendance at the January 17<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen meeting.

He noted that Bill Fraher is in the process of auditing FY11 and a meeting to go over the results would be scheduled once completed.

Briggs stated that he was still working with Investar on the PILOT document and it is moving forward and that the lawyers were talking regarding the site, easement and the panels on the Bresnahan Center.

He noted that he has received all the FY13 budgets and would now be meeting with each Department Head to review.

He stated that Paul Pollastri started today as Town Treasurer. He also stated that Donna Couture, our Accountant, gave her notice of resignation effective January 29<sup>th</sup>.

Vitone read the letter as follows:

“After careful thought and consideration, I have decided to resign from my position as Town Accountant for the Town of Ashburnham effective January 29<sup>th</sup>.

It has been a pleasure working for the Town and I could not ask for a better group of colleagues to work with. I am thankful for your support and professional guidance during my time with the Town.

Please let me know how I can be of assistance during this transition period.”

Vitone stated that Donna Couture, who was a certified Town Accountant, started with the Town on July 1, 2011. He noted that she has accepted a position in the Town of Phillipston for less hours. He stated that the ad is posted in the Gardner News, the Sentinel, the MMAAA website and on the Town’s website.

Briggs asked the Board to appoint him as their voting delegate at the MMA meeting. ***Reed made the motion to appoint Doug Briggs as their voting delegate at the MMA Meeting and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.***

## VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### A. December 19, 2011 Minutes – Regular Meeting

***Reed motioned to approve the minutes for the December 19, 2011 Board of Selectmen meeting and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.***

## IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

## X. JANUARY MEETINGS

Fagan read the list of meetings for January as follows:

<b>Committee/Board</b>	<b>Day/Date/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Parks & Rec Committee	Thursday, 1/5/12 – 6:30 p.m.	Training Rm. Public Safety
Conservation Commission	Monday, 1/9/12 – 6:30 p.m.	Lower Level – Town Hall
Water/Sewer Commission	Tuesday, 1/10/12 – 6:00 p.m.	Lower Level – Town Hall
Board of Assessors	Wednesday, 1/11/12 – 6:00 p.m.	Assessor's Office – Town Hall

## XI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fagan read the announcements as follows:

Town Clerk Reminders:

- January 1<sup>st</sup> 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.)
- Census forms will be mailed to all residents in January. Failure to respond will result in removal from the active voting list. Forms must be returned to the Town Clerk's office within ten (10) days. If you do not receive a form by the end of January or have any questions regarding the form, please call the Town Clerk's office at 978-827-4100 ext. 114.

The Parks & Rec Committee is planning Winter Fest activities to be held at Sweeney Playground on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Snow dates would be February 10 and 11.

Representative Rich Bastien Office Hours at 6:00 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building on the third Monday of every month. To schedule time, call 978-630-1776.

The Town Hall and the Senior Center will be closed on Monday, January 16<sup>th</sup> for the Martin Luther King Holiday. The Town Hall hours on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> will be 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building. Tim Kelly from Comcast will be in attendance at this meeting.

At this time Reed stated that Ed Vitone's term was up this year and that his was up next year. He announced his resignation from the Board of Selectmen effective the date of the next Town Election in April. He noted that he wanted to give enough notice before the Caucus which would be held at the end of February so that interested parties could be nominated or come forward. He added that there would be two openings because Ed Vitone has decided to run for the last year of his/Reed's term and would not be running after that.

Reed thanked the residents for their confidence but due to personal reasons, he felt he was not able to adequately serve the Town. He encouraged anyone interested to please come forward as the Town was in a good place right now with Doug Briggs at the helm and that he was great to work with.

Vitone stated that what Ron Reed knows is invaluable and he gave great value to the Board. He stated that in his case, this was an opportunity to not seek re-election for a three year term, but that he would run for the one year term that would be remaining of Reed's. He added that we need people to serve and come forward.

Fagan stated that he intended to stay on as Selectman. He noted that without Vitone's and Reed's direction his first year would have been more challenging than it was and he thanked them for their patience.

Reed noted that he would stay on as the at-large member of the Capital Planning Committee.

Briggs thanked Reed for his historical views and background and he thanked Vitone stating that he learned a lot and has enjoyed the job as a result.

## XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT

Vitone asked for any public input and Gail Dumont inquired as to the number of members allowed on the Parks & Rec Committee as she knew of another interested party. She stated that right now there were 5 members. Briggs responded that any new member should be passed by the Chair of the Committee but that they could have up to 7 members as well as a few alternates.

## XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:00 p.m., Vitone stated that the Board of Selectmen would 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 minutes and to only reconvene in open session to adjourn. ***Reed motioned to recess the meeting and was seconded by Fagan.*** Roll call was taken.

## XIV. ADJOURNMENT

***At 7:54 p.m. Reed motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator