

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

This meeting was taped for local cable television.

PRESENT: Ed Vitone, Chair, Gregory Fagan, Clerk, Ron Reed, Member, and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. It was noted that Doug Briggs, Town Administrator would be arriving shortly as he was attending a Board of Health meeting.

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

A. Bresnahan Building Committee – Update (Presentation – 15 minutes max)

Present – Val Daigle, Brenda Brown, Harry Powers, Ron Skaife, Dennis Cormier, John Comeau, Joe Daigle

Vitone asked Daigle to explain where they were in the project and how far they had to go to completion. Val Daigle began her presentation by sharing a photo of the center as it stands at this time. She stated that as of today the roof was completed and the vent on the roof was being installed this week. She stated that Monty Tech is now working on the inside of the building, the plumbing waste lines are complete, the electrical work is done in the scouting area and things are moving along well.

Daigle gave a quick layout of the building stating that the scouting area upstairs had its own entrance and parking area and there were two large function rooms, two handicapped restrooms, a standard restroom and two showers. She also noted that behind the building there would be a camping area for the scouts. She stated that on the first floor, the community area, there would be two function rooms, a large commercial kitchen and a loading dock and that this area would be open for other community use.

She noted that with their financial status at this time they anticipate the project to be completed some time in the fall. She stated that they have an ongoing online fund raiser auction and they are also planning a bagpipe concert on April 28th at Monty Tech in the Dukakis Auditorium all to help raise additional funds for the project.

Daigle also stated that they were setting up a donators list as a way of showing their gratitude to everyone. She added that the 13 member committee group/directors are all the same people that have worked diligently on this project for the past 8½ years.

She touched on the “rumor” stating that the number of employees will be set at five and that the building should be self-sustaining. She added that the 13 directors have worked very hard to see this center come to fruition and now the building is visual. She stated that their mission is that this center be a memorial to William J. Bresnahan who was killed in Vietnam in 1967. She stated that Bresnahan was very active in scouts and

actually was an Eagle Scout. She added that this has been a warm and wonderful project.

Fagan noted that it was wonderful to see such dedication and he congratulated them, adding that they were a good model for the community.

There was a short discussion on the Rail Trail connection to the center and Daigle stated that there were grants available for trails and wildlife studies and this would get the kids outside and active.

Reed expressed kudos to the Committee for sticking to it and Vitone noted how the site was moved about a year and a half ago and applauded them for a great job through it all.

Vitone inquired what funds would be needed to complete the project and Daigle responded about \$125,000 to get everything done. Vitone brought up the situation with the seniors and the move to the upstairs at Town Hall as a temporary home. He asked about the potential of setting the community center up for the seniors with funding to complete the project from the Town with Town meeting financing approval. He added that “the seniors are like orphans now”. Daigle stated that it’s negotiable and they would evaluate a proposal. She also noted that they meet every second Saturday at 6 Central Street and that their meetings are open to the public. Vitone stated that the Town Administrator would put together a proposal for their consideration and would attend their meeting in March to discuss this further. Ron Skaife stated that the Committee would discuss the proposal among themselves once they receive it from Doug Briggs.

A short discussion followed on the proposed solar project.

Vitone stated to the Committee that they were thrilled with the project and that they were a great role model of volunteerism and determination. He noted that he envisions Ashburnham’s own Dunn Park someday. He thanked the Committee for their presentation and their diligence.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and announcement of DCR interest in acquiring property in Ashburnham

Vitone stated that the DCR is interested in acquiring some property in Ashburnham and has asked the Board of Selectmen to announce their intent at a meeting. Fagan read the announcement as follows:

“In accordance with 301 CMR 51.00, et seq., the town of Ashburnham hereby certifies that on February 6, 2012, a public announcement was made at a regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting of the Commonwealth’s interest in acquiring approximately 23.5± acres of land, or other property interest, in the Town of Ashburnham State Forest. A locus map marked “Exhibit A” showing the proposed acquisition is appended hereto.”

Vitone stated that they received the support of the Conservation Commission Chair, Marshall Dennis and also support from the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission.

Fagan read the input from Marshall Dennis as follows:

“Map 8/Parcel 6 is located east of East Rindge Road and consists of approximately 22.5 acres. While some portion(s) of the site may be developable, more detailed site-specific investigations would be required to confirm this assumption.

The property predominantly consists of wetlands associated with Bear Meadow Brook, a perennial waterway. Moreover, the entirety of the site has been mapped as State-listed rare species habitat by the MA Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program. A Certified Vernal Pool also occurs onsite south of Bear Meadow Brook. Collectively, these existing resource conditions would make future site development problematic from a Federal/State/Municipal permitting perspective and would limit, if not preclude, the site's overall development potential. Lastly, besides the above-referenced attributes, the property is located adjacent to an existing component of the Ashburnham State Forest system which, I presume is of interest to DCR.

In summary, I believe that DCR's purchase of the subject property would provide a valued addition to the Town's assemblage of conservation lands and, as such, recommend that the Select Board agree to the sale of the property to DCR."

Reed stated that he assumed that the family has decided to sell and it does fall into this category with minimal taxable value. He stated that he recommends that they support.

Gary Howland from the Ashburnham Conservation Trust was present and added that they have worked with this family for a while now and that this would create a bridge to the State Forest.

Fagan stated that he would also support this recommendation. Reed asked about the building on the property and Howland stated that yes it would be demolished and that they have been working with the Fire Department stating that it would be good as a fire training exercise.

Francis Wood, a resident, asked what the taxable value was on this property and Reed stated that the total appraised value with the building was \$172,100, with the building alone valued at \$141,000. He added that without the building the tax bill would be \$600 a year. Howland noted that the house has no value and would be torn down and Fagan added that there's the safety perspective as well. Vitone noted that the State would probably give the Town \$300 as a PILOT.

Reed motioned to approve the request by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to acquire property at 266 East Rindge Road and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

B. Review and vote on Annual Town Caucus posting of Town Offices to be filled

Fagan read the Caucus notice as follows:

"The Annual Town Caucus for the purpose of nomination of candidates for the Town Offices, under the provisions of Section 117 to 121 inclusive, Chapter 53 of the General Laws will be held on Monday, February 27, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at the COA Center (upstairs at Town Hall). Offices to be filled with the present incumbents whose terms expire are listed below.

<u>Office</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Incumbent</u>
Moderator	1 year	Donald J. Lawrence
Board of Selectmen	3 years	Edward T. Vitone, Jr.
Board of Selectmen	1 year	Vacant
Board of Health (2)	3 years	Thomas J. Flanagan Francis J. McLaughlin
Planning Board	5 years	John A. MacMillan
Library Trustee	3 years	Barbara Hallowell
Library Trustee	2 years	Vacant
Municipal Light Board	3 years	Kevin A. Lashua"

Vitone noted that John MacMillan would not be running for the Planning Board. **Reed motioned to approve the posting and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.**

C. Review and vote on Presidential Primary Warrant Posting

Fagan made the motion to approve the Presidential Primary Warrant posting as presented and was seconded by Reed. Motion carried.

D. Discussion and vote on two Special One-Day Liquor License Requests

Vitone stated that there were two Special One-Day Liquor License requests to be approved by the Board. It was noted by Gary Howland that the request submitted by the Conservation Trust had been postponed to some time in June and would be resubmitted.

Reed motioned to approve the request for a One-Day Special Liquor License for the St. Denis spaghetti supper scheduled for Saturday, February 18th at Father Lacey Hall from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. Fagan seconded and the motion carried.

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

Doug Briggs was in attendance and gave his report to the Board of Selectmen. He reviewed the status of the Water Tank Project stating that it should be on line by the end of the week and that they were in the process of erecting the communication tower.

He stated that he had just attended the Board of Health meeting tonight to ask for a permit for the Council on Aging to serve pre-cooked meals and they granted this permit until October 31st which is the scheduled time for renewal of all permits.

Briggs stated that he was working with the Town's Assessor, Harald Scheid to see if a PILOT is needed on the solar project. He also noted that he has contacted the Town Administrator in Dartmouth who has six of these type projects in his town to see how they have been set up. He noted that he should have clarity on this in the next week or so.

He stated that he had reviewed the FY13 budgets last week with the Department Heads and that he worked with them to try and keep it level funded. He also noted that he had met with the Department Heads on the Capital Plan.

Briggs stated that the Board needs to open the May 5, 2012 Annual Town Meeting warrant and to set a date to close the warrant. He suggested they close the warrant on March 15th.

Reed motioned to go with the Town Administrator's recommendation and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

He reported on the town building inspections in process by the Building Commissioner, Dick Reynolds. He stated that Dick Reynolds was doing a great job and that he is reviewing his findings re: Town Hall and the front steps which may be a significant repair and could fall under the capital plan. He stated that he did reach out to Monty Tech to see if their masonry department would consider this project as they have done similar work on the Barre Town Hall steps.

Briggs stated that Tammy Collier our new Town Accountant would be starting her new job on Monday February 13th.

He noted that a regionalization meeting had been scheduled for Wednesday, February 8th as a kick-off meeting to start serious discussions on regionalizing dispatch between the two towns. He added that they need to start looking at this because deadlines for applying for grants were coming up.

He stated that he was in final negotiations with the Fire Chief for his contract and that he would be starting negotiations with Dispatch and Police unions as their contracts expire on June 30, 2012.

Briggs stated that he was looking at the DPW relocation with one option being regionalization and the other being available properties.

He noted that he met with Duncan Phyfe, Chair of the IT Advisory Board and Brad Warren from Guardian regarding the park safety, Briggs project and water tank security. He stated that they were looking at a capital type scenario and that they were moving forward.

He stated that his last task update was the issue of downtown architectural standards and possible changes in the bylaws regarding this. He stated that he would have something in mid June for recommendation.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 17, 2012 Minutes – Regular Meeting

Reed motioned to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2012 Board of Selectmen meeting and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

B/ January 23, 2012 Minutes – Special Meeting

Reed motioned to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2012 Special Meeting and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

X. FEBRUARY MEETINGS

Fagan read the list of meetings for February as follows:

Committee/Board	Day/Date/Time	Location
Parks & Rec Committee	Tues. Feb. 7 – 7:00 p.m.	Fire Conf. Rm. – Upstairs PSB
Board of Assessors	Wed. Feb. 8 – 6:00 p.m.	Assessors Office – Town Hall
Planning Board	Thurs. Feb. 9 & 23 – 6:30 p.m.	Lower Level – Town Hall
Council on Aging Board	Mon. Feb. 13 – 10:00 a.m.	Lower Level – Town Hall
Conservation Commission	Mon. Feb. 13 – 7:30 p.m.	Lower Level – Town Hall
Water/Sewer Commission	Tues. Feb. 14 – 6:00 p.m.	Lower Level – Town Hall
250 th Celebration Committee	Thurs. Feb. 16 – 6:30 p.m.	Webber Room - Oakmont
Friends of the COA	Tues. Feb. 21 – 6:00 p.m.	Lower Level – Town Hall

XI ANNOUNCEMENTS

Fagan read the announcements as follows:

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 through Thursday – 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Town Hall is closed on Fridays.)
- Final Registration for State Primary – Wednesday, February 15, 2012 – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- Citizens Caucus – Monday, February 27, 2012 – 7:00 p.m. – Malcolm C. Stewart Community Room, Stevens Memorial Library, 20 Memorial Drive.
- Last day for filing applications for absentee ballots for voters who will be out of town for the state primary is Monday, March 5, 2012 – 12:00 noon.
- State Primary – Tuesday, March 6, 2012 – polls open 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. – J.R. Briggs Elementary School Gym, 96 Williams Road.
- Tuesday, March 6th – 5:00 p.m. – Last day for filing nomination papers for the Town Election with the Board of Registrars.

- Thursday, March 22nd – 5:00 p.m. – Last day to file objections or withdrawals of nomination papers to the Town Clerk.
- Tuesday, April 3rd – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Final Registration for the Town Election – Town Clerk’s Office, Town Hall.
- Tuesday, April 17th – 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Final Registration for the Annual Town Meeting – Town Clerk’s Office, Town Hall.
- Monday, April 23rd – 12:00 noon – Last day for filing applications for absentee ballots for voters who will be out of town for the Town Election.
- Tuesday, April 24th – Town Election – polls open at 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the J.R. Briggs Elementary School Gym, 96 Williams Road.
- Saturday, May 5th – Annual Town Meeting – 10:00 a.m. – Oakmont Regional High School Auditorium, 9 Oakmont Drive.

The Parks & Rec Committee is planning Winter Fest activities to be held at Sweeney Playground on Friday, February 10th from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday, February 11th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Date was changed due to weather conditions.

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.

Due to the Presidents Day Holiday on Monday, February 20th the next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Tuesday, February 21st at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:30 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 purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, strategy with respect to contract negotiations for a non-union employee and approval and release of Executive Session minutes and to only reconvene into open session to adjourn. ***Reed motioned to recess the meeting and was seconded by Fagan. Fagan motioned to enter into Executive Session and was seconded by Reed. Motion carried.*** Roll call was taken.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 8:30 p.m. Reed motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator