

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
TUESDAY – SEPTEMBER 4, 2012 – 6:30 p.m.  
TRAINING ROOM – PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX

---

This meeting was aired live on local cable television.

PRESENT: Greg Fagan, Clerk, Leo Janssens, Member, Doug Briggs, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. Ed Vitone, Chair was not in attendance.

I. SALUTE THE FLAG

Fagan called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Fagan noted that they would pass over the Briggs School Project update and also the Parks & Rec Committee Rules and Regulations and these would be deferred to the next meeting.

***Janssens motioned to approve the agenda as amended and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.***

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

A. Discussion – Flag at VMS Building

Lorna and John Fields and Dennis Driscoll were in attendance. Fagan stated that the Board was in receipt of a letter from the Fields regarding placing a flag on the existing pole at the VMS Building. He asked Lorna Fields to speak on this request.

Lorna Fields stated that they did their homework and they want to replace the flag at the VMS building. She stated that they have talked to many residents and they found that after 2008 and the move of the Fire and Police Departments to the new Public Safety Building, the flag was removed. She noted that she spoke with Ed Vitone about this issue, asking why the flag was taken down. She stated that Officer Siano had originally asked to place the flag at the VMS and the pole was erected at a cost of \$2,000 and that Fred Sweeney donated the flag. She stated that they want to see the flag back and they want to do it at no cost to the Town. She noted that they would provide the flag and a solar light to illuminate it. She added that many have given their lives and the flag should be there as recognition of their sacrifices.

Janssens noted that he was impressed with the fact that they came forward with this request and that it would be at no cost to the Town. Fagan asked for a motion to have Doug Briggs work with the Fields to get this done. ***Janssens motioned to accept the flag at the VMS and to have the Town Administrator work with the Fields to get this accomplished. Fagan seconded and the motion carried.***

Lorna Fields noted that they also want to have it re-dedicated and to work with Briggs on signing a waiver because of the possible liability to the Town.

B. Update report on Briggs School Project

This was deferred to the next meeting.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Parks & Rec Committee – Rules & Regulations

This was deferred to the next meeting.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### A. Approval of mortgage discharge – 17 Puffer Street

Fagan noted that this mortgage discharge for 17 Puffer Street was long overdue as over time it was paid and should have been discharged. Briggs stated that the Board of Selectmen needs to vote to authorize the Chair to sign off on this mortgage discharge. ***Janssens motioned to accept the mortgage discharge and to authorize the sign-off by the Chair. Fagan seconded and the motion carried.***

## VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

(This report is attached to these minutes and also posted on the Town's website.)

Briggs listed the openings on Town Boards and Committees as follows: (2) Conservation Commission; (1) Capital Planning Committee; (1) Advisory Board; (1) Board of Assessors; and (1) Historical Commission.

Briggs gave an update on the South Ashburnham Water Tank repair noting that it has been completed and that they began to fill the tank this morning. He added that it would be filled by Thursday. He stated that they have contacted the pavers for Hastings Road and that once the old tank on High Street is taken down a plaque would be placed at the site.

He stated that the RFP for the sale of South Station was ready but that he wanted the Board's guidance as to whether they should include a minimum bid and if so, what it should be. He explained that the property is assessed for \$249,500. Fagan stated that they would take this under advisement until the next meeting as this should be decided by the full Board. Briggs also noted that the roof on South Station had been repaired and that once the Board decides on the RFP they would notify the abutters, the Ashburnham Firefighters Association and place an ad in the Gardner News as well as on the Town website.

Briggs also noted that the boiler room repairs at Town Hall have been completed and inspected by the Building Inspector and that they were in the process of getting quotes to replace some windows on the lower level at Town Hall as the sills were rotting out. He added that these repairs are being done as a result of the Building Inspector's inspection of the building.

He noted that the DPW had recently lost two employees, one to pursue a new career path and the other to retirement. He stated that they interviewed 3 very qualified persons for the Clerk position and that they offered the job to Mary Calandrella from Ashby who accepted and will start on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. He added that they had received 68 applications for this position which is a sign of the times with the job market. He also noted that Steve Nims and his Foreman, Dave Whitney interviewed 5 applicants out of the 27 applications received for the Light Motor Equipment Operator's position and chose Stephen Picard of Leominster, who has accepted the position. His start date, once he passes a physical and drug test, would also be on Monday, September 17<sup>th</sup>. Briggs stated that both new hires were excellent choices.

Briggs gave an update on the fiber installation noting that CATV and AMLD had completed their make-ready work and that it is moving forward. He stated that once this is completed the Public Safety Building would be the hub and that all buildings would be using the same ShoreTel phone system as Town Hall and that Munis would be available at each location. He also noted that the IT Advisory Board would be meeting to discuss back-up power at the Public Safety Building which was recently hit by lightning.

He noted that his last day in Ashby was Thursday, August 30<sup>th</sup> and that he was glad to be "home". He added that the decision on the 911 Regionalization with Ashby would be made on September 12<sup>th</sup>.

Briggs stated that on Wednesday, August 22<sup>nd</sup> he met with Jack Levi, managing partner from "tenK" regarding a possible solar farm. He stated that Levi was looking to install a 3MWh solar farm and has been working with the AMLD. He also noted that Levi was in agreement with the

PILOT payment to the Town and that he was also looking at a second possible site, the backside of the 41 acres the Town purchased for the DPW relocation. Fagan inquired about the recent legislation that was passed on solar farms and Briggs stated that the solar aspect was pulled upon further review so any solar projects in Town would not be affected. Janssens inquired about the location of Levi's project and Briggs stated that he was looking at a spot at Turnpike and Williams and also at Williams and Old County Roads.

Briggs stated that the paving of Oakmont Drive was completed on September 1<sup>st</sup> and it looks good. He also noted that due to the predicted rain on Wednesday they would start on Thursday to lower/drop the fixtures on So. Main Street.

Briggs stated that he was asking for the Board to authorize the Chair to sign some paperwork on the Rural Development loan which was not in the original packet brought before them by the Treasurer. *Janssens motioned to approve the Chair to sign the paperwork and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.*

He stated that on Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> an MRPC meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. and this meeting would include discussions on the TIP (Transportation Improvement Program). He noted that he would be attending this meeting in order to keep the Town in the loop for the 101 south paving. Fagan noted that advocacy is important to the program.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 20, 2012 – Regular Meeting

Briggs stated that this should be deferred until the next meeting with the full Board.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

X. SEPTEMBER MEETINGS

Janssens read the list of meetings as follows:

<b>Committee/Board</b>	<b>Day/Date/Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
VMS Building Use Comm.	Thursday, Sept. 6, 6:30 p.m.	Lower Level – Town Hall
Council on Aging Board	Monday, September 10, 10:00 a.m.	Lower Level – Town Hall
Conservation Commission	Monday, September 10, 6:30 p.m.	Lower Level – Town Hall
Board of Health	Monday, September 10, 6:30 p.m.	Upstairs – Town Hall
Water/Sewer Commission	Tuesday, September 11, 6:00 p.m.	Lower Level – Town Hall
Board of Assessors	Wednesday, September 12, 6:00 p.m.	Assessors Office – Town Hall
Planning Board	Thursday, Sept. 13, 6:30 p.m.	Lower Level – 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.)
- Dog registration is ongoing with the additional late fee of \$10.00 added to each license and \$25.00 dog fines will be issued this month. If you have any questions please call the Town Clerk's office at 978-827-4100 ext. 114.
- Wednesday, September 5, 2012 Noon – Last day for filing applications for absentee ballots for voters who will be out of town for the State Primary.
- Thursday, September 6 – State Primary – Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. at the J.R. Briggs Elementary School Gym, 96 Williams Road.
- Special Town Meeting is Tuesday, October 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at Oakmont Regional High School, 9 Oakmont Drive.

- Final registration for the State Election is Wednesday, October 17, 2012 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Town Clerk's office, Town Hall.

Athol Savings Bank is sponsoring their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Pro-Shred Day to be held on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. in the parking lot in front of Town Hall. This is free on-site shredding services for the community.

A Community Health Fair is being held on Tuesday, October 9, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in the Senior Center, upstairs at Town Hall. This is sponsored in partnership with the Ashburnham Council on Aging and Wachusett Manor with free admission. A light lunch will be served and flu shots will be available. Fagan noted that this Health Fair is not just for the seniors.

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 next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held on Monday, September 17, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

## XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT

## XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

## XIV. ADJOURNMENT

*At 7:08 p.m. Janssens motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Fagan. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia Turcotte  
Assistant to the Town Administrator