

TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
MONDAY – DECEMBER 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, Leo Janssens, Clerk, 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           None

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Leo Janssens motioned to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Ed Vitone. Motion carried.*

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony held on Friday, November 30<sup>th</sup> and the Santa Claus Parade held on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>

Doug Briggs stated that he couldn't believe the number of people in attendance at this event. He thanked the Parks & Rec. Committee for their efforts and also thanked the Light Department, the DPW and Allen Tree Service for their generous assistance. He noted that the residents were very generous and brought truckloads of toys for the needy families in Ashburnham which would be distributed to the churches in Town. He added that it was a great time for all. He also noted that on Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, there were about 100 people in attendance at the Santa Parade which went very well. He added that it was a great weekend for Ashburnham and celebrating the holidays.

Mr. Janssens stated that he commended the Parks & Rec Committee and that it was a nice new beginning. Mr. Vitone stated that he has lived in town for many years and he couldn't remember a committee-based event happening in Ashburnham like this. He added that the Parks & Rec Committee are doing a phenomenal job! Mike Salem, the Chair of the Parks & Rec Committee humbly thanked them for their praise but stated that they are always looking for volunteers.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Vote to appoint new Town Accountant

Mr. Vitone stated that the current Town Accountant, Tammy Collier, was leaving because she didn't really like the job although she was good at it. He stated that they interviewed two candidates last week and both were good, but they chose one, Tanya Gaylord, who they felt would be a good match. *Mr. Janssens motioned to appoint Tanya Gaylord as Town Accountant and was seconded by Mr. Vitone. Motion carried.*

Mr. Janssens thanked the Town Treasurer Paul Pollastri for his technical input and added that both the candidates interviewed were impressive. Mr. Briggs stated that Ms. Gaylord would be a good fit.

B. Discussion on Sale of So. Station

Mr. Briggs stated that the bids were due on November 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. but that they only received one late bid at 4:18 p.m. which by State Statute we can't accept so we will return the bid unopened. He also recommended that we go out to bid again and follow the same process. Mr. Janssens stated that he would agree that they should go out to bid again and Mr. Vitone concurred. Bill Johnson asked if the RFP included a minimum bid and Mr. Vitone stated that there was no minimum bid and that the Board of Selectmen had the final say on accepting or rejecting any bids. He also noted that Mr. Briggs has taken an inventory of equipment being stored outside and they would take this into consideration when deciding on the sale.

At this time Lincoln Stiles asked to be heard stating that he had taken pictures of 22 pieces of Town equipment that currently sits outside noting that one piece of equipment is sitting at an employee's home. Mr. Vitone took the pictures and stated that they would look into it and take this under advisement.

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Briggs began by noting that Dennis Driscoll was present with his grandson Jason and he asked if Jason was present for a project at school. Jason responded that it was a project and he chose to write it on Town government.

Mr. Briggs stated that at the last meeting the Board voted to approve a liquor license for Café 57 but that there was a paper issue with the ABCC. He stated that the State needs notification from the Board of Selectmen that they voted to de-activate the license for the Firehouse Pub. ***Mr. Janssens motioned to de-activate the liquor license for the Firehouse Pub effective January 1, 2013 and was seconded by Mr. Vitone. Motion carried.***

He stated that currently there are (2) openings on the Conservation Commission, (2) on the Council on Aging Board, (1) on the Capital Planning Committee, (1) Advisory Board, (1) Parks and Recreation, and (1) on the Board of Assessors. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities. He added that we are also looking for interested parties to serve on the Cable Advisory Board.

Mr. Briggs stated that Maureen Pollock has accepted the position of Conservation Agent and will start on December 10<sup>th</sup>. He added that the Conservation Commission is excited about their choice.

He stated that he has met with the Teacher Union Negotiation Team and that he is looking forward to working with them.

Mr. Briggs stated that they are trying to get GCG Engineering to contact MASS DOT on the engineering work to go forward with the paving of Route 101 South.

He noted that after Hurricane Sandy Reverse 911 was wiped out for the Sheriff's Department and we needed to go forward and that Code Red will be a good thing for the Town. He went on to say that they have entered into a 6 month contract as of January 1<sup>st</sup> and then if it works out as well as expected we will go forward with a 3 year contract at a cost of \$6,000 which would be split by different departments.

He stated that he has started discussions with Fire Chief Zbikowski on his contract with the Town.

Mr. Briggs noted that he has received all the departments FY14 Budgets on time which is great. Mr. Vitone asked if the next budget process would be all done through Munis and Mr. Briggs replied that it absolutely would and it is the ultimate goal.

Mr. Briggs stated that the VMS Building asbestos inspection has been done and they are waiting for the results. He also noted that the building is now vacant and the water has been shut off and the plumber will be coming to drain all the lines and to finish winterizing the building.

He talked about the equipment storage issue noting that all the cruisers are under the carport and the Police boat, radar trailer and firearm/equipment trailer are stored at the Municipal Grounds building. He also noted that the sign board and the emergency light trailer are stored outside. He stated that for Fire, Engines 1, 2 and 3, Forestry 4 and 5, old engine 4, ambulance 1, medic 1, ladder 1, tanker 1, zodiac boat, and the mid-state 500 gallon foam trailer are all stored inside. Also, during the winter months the hovercraft is stored inside as well. The Fire aluminum boat, 2½ forestry, special operations trailer, and Humvee are all stored outside. Under the DPW, the only equipment that is stored outside year round is the grader and the emergency trailer. He did note that the ultimate objective is to store everything inside and they would look to get rid of some dump bodies and scrap metal.

Mr. Briggs again noted that his goal is to minimize equipment storage outside and the photos presented by Mr. Stiles would be a part of the review process. Mr. Vitone asked that he look into the backhoe that may be stored on personal property and Mr. Briggs said he would.

#### VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

##### A. November 19, 2012 – Regular Meeting

Mr. Vitone stated that Tighe & Bond had volunteered to attend the meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> and the minutes should reflect this. Mr. Briggs noted that he believed it was stated in Section IV paragraph 2. ***Mr. Janssens motioned to approve the minutes, as presented, from the November 19, 2012 Regular Meeting and was seconded by Mr. Vitone. Motion carried.***

##### B. November 26, 2012 – Special Meeting

***Mr. Janssens motioned to approve the November 26, 2012 minutes of the Special Meeting and was seconded by Mr. Vitone. Motion carried.***

#### XI. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Vitone asked Mr. Janssens to read the letter they received from Chief Barrett. Mr. Janssens read as follows:

*To: Detective Rob Siano and Officer Les Holgerson*

*From: Chief Loring Barrett Jr.*

*Date: November 27, 2012*

*Re: Letter of Recognition*

*Dear Det. Siano & Officer Holgerson:*

*This letter is to recognize both of you for your actions and quick thinking to avert what most likely would have been a tragic event that may have resulted in several injuries and possibly loss of life.*

*On Wednesday, November 14, 2012, you both were returning from training in Franklin, Massachusetts operating the police department's unmarked Ford Crown Victoria. At approximately 4:30 p.m. (dusk) while traveling northbound on Interstate Rt. 495 in the Town of Bellingham you observed headlights coming towards you from a vehicle traveling onto Rt. 495 from the exit ramp. This vehicle entered onto Rt. 495 traveling southbound in the northbound lane and traveled across 2 lanes of highway during rush hour and into the far left lane facing southbound causing several vehicles to swerve into various lanes and the median strip to avoid a collision. Your quick actions to avoid a collision with this vehicle and then to activate the cruiser's emergency lights to warn oncoming traffic and then to negotiate this vehicle to turn into the correct direction and to safely stop the vehicle in the breakdown lane avoided a sure tragedy. At this point you both approached the operator and determined it was an elderly gentleman that appeared to be suffering from a medical/mental condition. You summoned the state police and medical personnel to your location and remained on scene to attend to the gentleman and to keep the area safe until relief arrived.*

*Your actions that afternoon were above and beyond the call of duty and there is no doubt that those actions that you took prevented numerous collisions and averted serious injuries or worse. Although knowing both of you for many years and your commitment to our profession and the safety and welfare of the public, your actions do not surprise me. The Town of Ashburnham and this department are fortunate and grateful to have such dedicated officers on staff. Congratulations to both of you and keep up the great work!*

*Sincerely yours; Loring Barrett Jr., Chief of Police"*

Mr. Janssens stated that he was impressed and that he can't say enough about the professionalism of the Town's police department. Mr. Briggs noted that Cushing Academy had paid for the two officers to attend this training along with their personnel and this forms a great team. Mr. Vitone stated that this speaks volumes of their professionalism and the leadership.

X. DECEMBER MEETINGS

Janssens read the list of meetings as follows:

Mon., December 10	10:00 a.m. 6:30 p.m.	Council on Aging Board Conservation Comm.	Lower Level – Town Hall Lower Level – Town Hall
Tues., December 11	6:00 p.m.	Water/Sewer Comm.	Lower Level – Town Hall
Wed., December 12	5:00 p.m.	Board of Assessors	Assessor Office – Town Hall
Thurs., December 13	7:00 p.m.	Planning Board	Lower Level – Town Hall

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Janssens 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.)
- December 19, 2012, Wednesday – Final registration for the Special Town Election. Town Clerk's office at Town Hall, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
- January 7, 2013, Monday at 12:00 noon – Last day for filing applications for absentee ballots for voters who will be out of town for the Special Town Election.
- January 8, 2013, Tuesday – **SPECIAL TOWN ELECTION** – Polls open at 9:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. at the J.R. Briggs Elementary School Gym, 96 Williams Road.

The Senior Center Christmas Party, which is open to all seniors, will be held on Tuesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Senior Center in Town Hall. There will be a buffet lunch and the Overlook Middle School Chorus will sing.

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

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT Bill Johnson asked if a timeline for the budget had been set and Mr. Briggs stated that he would send it although he had already sent it out to everyone earlier in the year. Mr. Johnson then asked if the oil tank would need to be emptied at the VMS Building and Mr. Briggs responded that it wasn't an issue.

Mr. Vitone inquired if the Victorian Stables had been sold and if a new business was moving in. Mr. Briggs stated that he would check on that.

Mr. Briggs stated that a notice had been sent out to residents in their Light bills informing them that if they had water pressure that is over 80 pounds they would need a pressure reducing valve installed to avoid any problems. He stated that if anyone has a question on this they should call the DPW at 98-827-4120.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

*At 7:15 p.m. Mr. Janssens motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Mr. Vitone. Motion carried.*

Respectfully submitted,  
Sylvia Turcotte  
Assistant to the Town Administrator