BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES MONDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2013 – 6:30 P.M. PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX – TRAINING ROOM

This meeting was aired live on local cable television.

PRESENT: Leo Janssens II, Chair, Duncan Phyfe, Member, Nick Davis, Clerk, Doug Briggs, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator.

I. SALUTE THE FLAG

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

II. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit)

None

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leo Janssens motioned to approve the agenda, with the deletion of the Executive Session which would not be held tonight, and he was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried.

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORT None

V. OLD BUSINESS None

VI. NEW BUSINESS None

VII TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Doug Briggs stated that we still need members on the Conservation Commission, the Council on Aging Board, the Board of Assessors, Capital Planning Committee, Advisory Board and Cable Advisory Board. He stressed that members were needed. He also noted that the Planning Board was in need of an Associate Member and if anyone was interested in serving they should contact Sylvia Turcotte at the Town Hall, 978-827-4100 extension 109 or via email – sturcotte@ashburnham-ma.gov.

Mr. Briggs noted that he was contacted by Steve Coswell, the Chair of the 250th Celebration Committee, regarding if anyone had any of the medallions associated with that era. If anyone has any information they should contact Steve Coswell or Sylvia Turcotte.

He stated that the Treasurer has published a list of uncashed checks on the Town's website and that anyone who is on that list or knows someone on the list should contact him.

Doug Briggs also noted that the Winter Parking Ban went into effect on November 15th and is in effect through April 1st between the hours of 12:00 midnight to 7:00 a.m.

He stated that he heard rumors that he was going to close the Stevens Memorial Library and that sadly there are those that like to "stir the pot" and start these rumors. He noted that he would like to assure everyone that he has no plans or focus to initiate or carry out any plans to close the library. He also noted that our Charter is explicit that since the operation of the Library is not under his responsibility, he has no authority to reorganize, or in this case "close" the Library.

He stated that the application has been filed for the Water Line Replacement Project and within the next two or three weeks we would know the percentage of the grant we would be eligible for. He also noted that we received \$27,917.74 from FEMA for the February 2013 blizzard and that a great job was done by the DPW and Fire Chief in following up with this grant and that these funds would roll over into free cash.

Mr. Briggs stated that the Board of Selectmen would meet in Executive Session on December 16th to discuss the new union contract for the DPW and that Steve Nims would be present as well.

Doug Briggs stated that he attended the Retirement Party for Battalion Chief Bob Salo which was held on Saturday, November 30th at Cushing Academy. He stated that Bob Salo served the Town for 35 years and the party was to acknowledge this service. He added that it was a good time with great food.

He stated that the Health Insurance Advisory Committee met with Edd Byrnes on Tuesday November 19th. He noted that this group included members from all unions in Westminster, Ashburnham and the School District as well as representatives from non-union employees from each entity. He stated that they discussed future alternatives and plan coverage information. A follow up meeting would be held on December 3rd to develop recommendations to our joint insurance group.

Mr. Briggs stated that he met with representatives from Spuria's, DJ's Classic Cars and Ashburnham Marine and Power to review their support information for the renewal of their Class II Used Car Licenses. He added that he would recommend to the Board to sign the renewals at their meeting on December 16th.

He noted that he was working on the Revenue/Expense forecast for FY15 and that the budgets from the Department Heads were due on December 11th.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. November 18, 2013 Minutes – Regular Meeting

Leo Janssens made the motion to approve the minutes of November 18, 2013 and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried. Duncan Phyfe was not present for this meeting.

- IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE None
- X. DECEMBER MEETINGS and EVENTS Nick Davis read the meetings and events as follows:

Friday, December 6 at 5:30 p.m. – 2nd Annual Tree Lighting and Santa Parade – Town Hall

Tuesday, December 10 at 6:00 p.m. – Water/Sewer Commission Meeting – Lower Level Town Hall

Wednesday, December 11 at 5:00 p.m. - Board of Assessors Meeting - Assessors Office Town Hall

Wednesday, December 25 - Christmas Holiday

Thursday, December 26 - Town Hall Closed

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nick Davis read the announcements as follows.

Town Clerk Reminders:

- January 1st and on Open registration of voters at the Town Hall, Town Clerk's Office, 32 Main Street, from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Mondays and 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday thru Thursday.
- Dog registration is ongoing with the additional late fee of \$10.00 added to each license. The \$50.00 fines along with a letter from Police Chief Barrett have been sent to those who still have not registered their dog(s). This is in addition to the \$25.00 fine previously sent. If you have any questions, please call the Town Clerk's office at 978-827-4100 extension 114.

The 2nd Annual Tree Lighting and Santa Parade (Food & Toy Drive) will be held on Friday, December 6th beginning at 5:30 p.m. This event is being held by the Ashburnham Parks & Recreation Committee, the Ashburnham Fire Department and the Ashburnham Fire Association. This event includes:

- Ornament making starting at 5:30 p.m.
- Santa Parade at 6:30 p.m. (from the School Boy to Town Hall)
- Tree Lighting at 7:00 p.m.
- Pictures with Santa and special appearances from the Grinch and Mr. Snowman.

It was noted by Mr. Janssens that the Tree Lighting might actually be held before 7:00 depending on the parade and that he was asked to speak at the event.

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday, December 16, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit) None

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 6:42 p. m. Nick Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted, Sylvia Turcotte Assistant to the Town Administrator