

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 20, 2013 – 6:30 P.M.
PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX – TRAINING ROOM**

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)

Pixie Brennan stated her concerns about the current situation at the Library and noted that she was alarmed about this matter. She stated that left unresolved it could cause another major issue in Ashburnham like what was experienced in the past so they should stop it before it happens again.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leo Janssens stated that the agenda would be amended to include Item H under New Business which was to approve a One-Day Liquor License Permit. ***Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the agenda as amended and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.***

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion on AWRSD Budget

Present were Superintendent of Schools Ralph Hicks, Business Manager Sherry Kersey and AWRSD Committee Chair Dave Christianson. Mr. Hicks discussed the new assessment amount of \$177,490 and the fact that they were looking for less money and had reduced their budget. He noted that there was no need for a town meeting and recommended that they go right for the override vote. Doug Briggs stated that Town Counsel has recommended that we go with Town Meeting in order to rescind the previous vote and to vote on the new override number. He explained that they only have a 45 day window and that the time would elapse before the ballot vote.

Supt. Hicks voiced his concern that if the Town Election was held at the same time as the State Election it might negate any state reimbursement and Town Clerk, Linda Ramsdell noted that it had not been determined yet. Mr. Hicks also noted his concern that if the ballot doesn't pass they would have to hold a regional meeting in July. Dave Christianson asked if they took a vote at tomorrow night's meeting, if it would eliminate the need for town meeting. Doug Briggs stated that the issue is that the warrant needed to be posted the next day so they would be more comfortable doing it this way and not waiting. Mr. Christianson inquired about holding two separate elections to get it done more quickly and Mr. Briggs stated that there was a time element, a 35 day time period and it was the soonest the election could be held.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review and approval of the June 4, 2013 Special Town Meeting Warrant

Doug Briggs stated that his recommendation to the Board is to hold the Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 2013. He also thanked the school for moving an event in order to accommodate this date for us. He stated that there were two articles on the warrant. One to rescind the previous vote and one to vote on the new override

number. *Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve and accept the Special Town Meeting warrant and date of June 4th and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.*

B. Vote on Special Election date of June 25, 2013 and ballot question

Doug Briggs read the ballot question as follows:

“Shall the Town of Ashburnham be allowed to assess an additional \$177,490 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purposes of adding such sum to line 21 of Article 9 for the operating budget approved for the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2013?”

Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the ballot question and the posting of the warrant and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.

It was noted by Superintendent Hicks that if this ballot does not pass the school will have \$416,000 less with the Town of Westminster’s assessment figure. Mr. Janssens noted that he was in favor of this override.

F. Approval of Special State Election Warrant for posting

Doug Briggs noted the new polling place for this Special State Election and Special Town Election would be Town Hall due to the demolition of the J.R. Briggs School and that both elections would be held on Tuesday, June 25th. Linda Ramsdell, the Town Clerk stated that postcards would be mailed out on the polling place change to all residences. *Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the Special State Election Warrant and posting and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.*

C. Approval of joint assessment (telephone and electric) on Williams Road – Briggs School Project

Doug Briggs stated that this was for Map 19, Lot 41, for the Briggs School. He read the easement request as follows: “The Town of Ashburnham, Massachusetts, Worcester County, Massachusetts, having a usual place of business at 32 Main Street, Ashburnham, Massachusetts 01430, acting by and through its Board of Selectmen (“Grantors”), for consideration paid of one (\$1.00) dollar, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, grant with quitclaim covenants to Verizon New England, Inc., a New York corporation, with a principal place of business at 125 High Street – Oliver Tower, 07th Floor, Boston, Massachusetts 02110 and to their successors and assigns forever (“Grantee”), the right and easement to construct, inspect, repair, maintain, upgrade and operate for the transmission of intelligence and the transmission of electricity, now and in the future, a line or lines of wires and cables and all necessary poles, conduits, foundations, anchors, guys, braces, fittings, terminals, equipment and appurtenances (“Facilities”), over, under, upon and across Grantor’s land located: on the westerly side of Williams Road, in the Town of Ashburnham, Worcester County, Massachusetts, as described in a deed recorded with the Worcester County District Registry of Deeds in Book 985, Page 74, recorded on February 5, 1966 and shown as Map 19, Lot 41 at the Town of Ashburnham’s Assessors’ Office and made a part hereto by reference.”

Leo Janssens motioned to approve the easement and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried. Linda Ramsdell, the Town Clerk, notarized the signatures on the document.

E. Approval of FY14 Board and Committee Appointments (list attached)

Duncan Phyfe made the motion to approve the list as presented and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.

It was noted by Mr. Janssens that they would wait until Nick Davis arrived to discuss and vote on Item D – Code of Conduct.

G. Summer meeting schedule

Mr. Janssens asked Mr. Phyfe if he had an issue with meeting only once a month in the months of July and August and he stated that he did not and that they could still meet if it was needed. ***Leo Janssens motioned to meet once a month in July and August on the second Monday of each month. Duncan Phyfe seconded and the motion carried.***

H. Request for One-Day Beer & Wine Liquor License – Ashburnham Business Center

Leo Janssens read the request which was from the Greater Gardner Chamber of Commerce-Ashburnham Business Center, 49-59 Main Street, for a Business After Hours/Open House – for Beer and Wine Only – on Wednesday, May 22, 2013. ***Duncan Phyfe made the motion to approve the request and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.***

VII TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Doug Briggs stated that they have received notification from the Cushing Academy Chief Financial Officer that their trustees approved the extension of their financial support of the one full-time police officer through June 30, 2016 (FY16). He stated that this was greatly appreciated by the Town.

He noted that they were going out to bid on the step repairs at Town Hall and that the shed, which was being built by the students from Monty Tech, was being erected. He stated that the walls and the roof were up and that they had done some shingling. He added that they were doing a great job.

Mr. Briggs stated that with the vote at Town Meeting passing on the tank removal and remediation of the VMS building, they were preparing to clean out the building. He stated that the tank removal can be done on July 1st and should be done quickly. He also noted that there are a lot of items at the VMS that will need to be removed before the remediation can be done. Doug Carlman stated that he was not aware that the items were available and he suggested that they sell them to help defray the costs rather than giving them away as any dollars recouped would be a help. Doug Briggs stated that he would look into this and report back to the Board.

He stated that they made their initial contact with USDA to work with them on grants for replacing water lines on South Maple Avenue, Williams Road, and Holden Street which are all areas of concern. He also added that the Water/Sewer Commissioners were in agreement on this.

Mr. Briggs stated that the PILOT agreement was sent to ten K Energy to finalize it and that it is now with Town Counsel. He added that ten K Energy has been working on permitting etc. with the Building Commissioner's office and they are still on track to be done by July 1st.

He stated that he and the Fire Chief will be negotiating with the Fire Union whose contract expires on June 30th.

He announced that the Parks & Rec Committee is celebrating the 15th Birthday Party of Winchester Park on Friday, June 7th at 6:00 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, June 9th. He stated that they are having a juggler for entertainment as well as hot dogs, ice cream and cake.

At this time, Nick Davis was in attendance and Leo Janssens stated that they would discuss Item D under New Business.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

D. Review and vote on Board of Selectmen “Code of Conduct”

Leo Janssens stated that this document is the same one as last year but with different names. ***Duncan Phyfe motioned to accept the Code of Conduct and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried.*** Mr. Janssens stated that this would be posted on the Town’s website.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. April 16, 2013 Minutes – Regular Meeting
- B. April 20, 2013 Minutes – Special Meeting
- C. April 24, 2013 Minutes – Special Meeting

Mr. Janssens noted that Nick Davis was not on the Board at the time of these meetings so he would not be voting. ***Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the minutes from the meetings of April 16, 20 and 24 and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.***

- D. May 4, 2013 Minutes – Special Meeting

Nick Davis motioned to approve the minutes from the May 4, 2013 Special Meeting and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.

- E. May 6, 2013 Minutes – Regular Meeting

Duncan Phyfe was not in attendance at this meeting. ***Leo Janssens motioned to approve the minutes of the May 6, 2013 Regular Meeting and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried.***

- F. May 13, 2013 Minutes – Working Meeting

Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the minutes of the May 13, 2013 Meeting and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried. Mr. Janssens noted that this meeting was very informative and they learned a lot.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

Doug Briggs noted that at their next meeting the Board will need to discuss the Stevens Building lease. He stated that he is still working with the Library Trustees on this issue. He added that they would meet in Executive Session.

X. MAY MEETINGS and EVENTS – Leo Janssens read the meetings and events as follows:

Wed., May 22 - 7:30 p.m.	Zoning Board of Appeals	Lower Level Meeting Room – Town Hall
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Mon., May 27 **Memorial Day** – Services begin at 7:30 a.m. at Sweeney Playground, then to Fairbanks Cemetery, St. Denis Cemetery, Bresnahan Pool, and then assemble on Meeting House Hill Common and march to Fairbanks Hall (Town Hall) for services at approximately 9:30 a.m. A Memorial

Day Chicken Barbecue will be held at the American Legion from 1-3 p.m. for an \$8.00 donation. For reservations or take-out call the Legion at 978-827-9966 Monday thru Friday after 2:00 p.m.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leo Janssens read the announcements as follows.

Town Clerk Reminders:

- Dog licenses are now available at the Town Clerk's office. Fees are \$10 for altered dogs and \$15 for unaltered dogs. Please bring in current rabies certificate. If licensing by mail, please include check, rabies certificate and a self-addressed envelope and mail to Town Clerk's Office, 32 Main Street, Ashburnham, 01430. NEW THIS YEAR – online payments can be made for dog license RENEWALS ONLY. Please call Town Clerk's office first at 978-827-4100 extension 114 to verify that a current rabies certificate is on file. Complete the information online and the dog license will be mailed.

The next regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday, June 3, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit)

Pixie Brennan stated that the items at Briggs were disposed of at no cost. She also stated that people have been calling her and asking why a Police cruiser is parked at the Cushing dining hall at noon each day. Doug Briggs stated that he would get an answer on this.

Doug Carlman who lives on South Main Street stated that now that the road is paved it's like a race track with vehicles speeding and it's a dangerous situation. Nick Davis stated that he lives on Ashby Road and when it was paved it was the same thing until they placed a speed monitor on the road, which was a big help. Doug Briggs stated that he would work with Chief Barrett to try and get this resolved.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:25 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