

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 6, 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.

Mr. Janssens introduced the new member of the Board of Selectmen, Nick Davis.

II. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit) None

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Doug Briggs stated that he would like to add Item C under New Business – Approval of Common Victualler License – The Peppermint Pig Coffee and Sweets (LLC) and to also add an item under BOS Correspondence. *Nick Davis motioned to approve the agenda as amended and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.*

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of Annual Town Meeting

Doug Briggs began the discussion by stating that overall the meeting went very well. He stated that two significant things came out of the meeting. The first was that there was no approved school budget for the AWRSD. He noted that now they had thirty days to get a new budget certified for June 30th. He stated that they will need to set up a Special Town Meeting and that it would need to be posted 14 days prior to the selected date and that right now he was looking at the first week in June.

Mr. Briggs noted that the second item was the Retiree Health Care vote. He stated that there would be a certain sign up period, notifications would need to be sent out and that they would set it up for a January start date. He added that they would need to notify the retirees and to make sure that we know where we're going. He noted that Edd Byrnes, the Town's insurance advisor, was working on this.

Nick Davis stated that he felt that the meeting went very smoothly and that he wanted the Town to be more interactive with the School. Mr. Briggs stated that by Wednesday or Thursday this week we should hear from the School on their budget.

Leo Janssens stated that he was issuing a challenge to those residents who voted down the demolition of the VMS Building. He stated he wants them to come in and get involved with ideas and funding sources and that he was asking the general public to get involved.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Vote to change polling place for the June 25th State Election

Doug Briggs noted that because the J.R. Briggs Elementary School will not be available for this election on June 25th, due to the construction of the new school and the demolition of the old building, the Board will need to vote to use the back-up alternate polling place which is the upstairs meeting room at Town Hall. He added that the Board needs to vote on this change at least 20 days prior to the election which

is on Tuesday, June 25th. ***Nick Davis motioned to approve the alternate polling place, upstairs at Town Hall, and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.***

B. Approval of Brian's Gift Road Race event

Doug Briggs stated that this annual event will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2013, from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and they planned on using the Winchester Park area and the Stevens Memorial Library grounds on the Chapel Street side. He asked the Board to approve this request. Leo Janssens gave some history on this event and how it has helped many families in Town. ***Nick Davis motioned to approve this event and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.***

C. Approval of Common Victualler License – The Peppermint Pig Coffee and Sweets (LLC)

Doug Briggs stated that this was a request for a new Common Victualler License for The Peppermint Pig Coffee and Sweets (LLC) located at 57 Main Street. He stated that the owners were Meredith Fagan and Emily Robertson and that they would be open 7 days a week from 6:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., year-round, with seating for 20 customers. He added that they had received approval of the Board of Health and that they had the proper permits. ***Nick Davis motioned to approve the Common Victualler License and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.***

VII TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Doug Briggs stated that he was asking for the Board's support of an appointment to the Board of Assessors. He stated that Jeffrey Perkins sent in a letter of interest to serve on this Board. ***Nick Davis motioned to approve the appointment of Mr. Perkins and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.*** Doug Briggs added that they are still looking for one more member to serve on the Board of Assessors. Mr. Briggs stated that currently there were openings on the following (1) Conservation Commission, (2) Council on Aging Board, (1) Capital Planning Committee, (2) Agricultural Commission and (4) Cable Advisory Board. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

He stated that they have received the new Chapter 90 projections in the amount of \$520,000 and that along with the \$125,000 from ATM they were looking to reconstruct Dunn Road, and to grind and resurface Lake Road from Sherbert to East Rindge Roads.

Doug Briggs stated that they started work on installing safety cameras at the new water tank with funds out of the Water Tank grant. He noted that the cameras to be placed at the parks would be purchased through the MIIA grant. He also stated that the mixing valve would be installed on May 8th also out of the Water Tank Grant as well as the variable speed motor at the Water Treatment Plant and that when they were done there would be no money left which is their goal.

He stated that they were working to get quotes to do the front steps of Town Hall and that hopefully this will get done soon.

Mr. Briggs also noted that a kick-off meeting with MRPC is scheduled for May 8th to discuss the intersection of Williams and Corey Hill Roads. He added that this is totally preliminary to talk about the safety issues.

He stated that the Bresnahan Center had submitted a request for any excess items at the VMS Building. He noted that he checked with his Department Heads to see if they wanted anything and they did not. He did add that the flagpole and the generator would not be available to the

Bresnahan Center at this time. Nick Davis asked if someone was interested in the VMS Building what the steps would be and who would ultimately be responsible for getting it up to par. Doug Briggs stated that they would need to remediate the building first and then possibly discuss. ***Nick Davis motioned to allow the removal of items per list submitted by the Bresnahan Center and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.***

Mr. Briggs stated that in the month of June they would be running a beta test at the Public Safety Building for an IMC/Munis interface for payroll entry. He stated that this would streamline the payroll process and hopefully would be more efficient.

Doug Briggs stated that the School District was offering items from the J.R. Briggs School before the demolition. He stated that he had concerns on who owned the property and Sherry Kersey informed him that she checked with the Attorney General’s office and was told that since it was built many changes occurred at the cost of the District so the items technically belong to the District. Leo Janssens stated that this allows Westminster to look at the supplies available also.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Janssens stated that there were no minutes for approval at this time.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

Leo Janssens read a portion of a letter from resident Kaitlin Strand whose son is dealing with cancer. “September is Childhood Cancer Awareness month and right now there is not much out there to promote awareness. My husband and I have been Ashburnham residents for almost five years now and we are asking for your help to raise awareness not only for our son but for every child fighting, surviving and for every child who has died because of Childhood Cancer. We are asking that you light the posts in the center of Town GOLD during the month of September.” Doug Briggs noted that Stan Herriott received this request as well and was planning on putting the lights on the poles in the center of Town as requested.

Nick Davis read the second item of correspondence as follows. “On Thursday April 18th the entire Cushing community participated in what has become an annual tradition at the Academy, Tony Fisher Day of Service to Others. A graduate of the Class of 1969, Cushing Trustee, and well-known philanthropist, Fisher died in a plane crash en route to Cushing in April 2003. In his honor, Cushing students and faculty now dedicate one day of service each year to the local community and beyond. This year, students pitched in at such places as the Salvation Army, Community Harvest Project, Walden Pond, local parks and playgrounds and campus clean-up.”

X. MAY MEETINGS and EVENTS - Nick Davis read the meetings and events as follows:

Wed.,	May 8	5:00 p.m.	Board of Assessors	Assessors Office – Town Hall
Thurs.,	May 9	7:00 p.m.	Planning Board	Lower Level Meeting Room – Town Hall
Mon.,	May 13	10:00 a.m.	Council on Aging Board	Lower Level Meeting Room – Town Hall
		– 6:30 p.m.	Conservation Commission	Lower Level Meeting Room – Town Hall
Tues.,	May 14	– 6:00 p.m.	Water/Sewer Commission	Lower Level Meeting Room – Town Hall
Mon.,	May 27		MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY Schedule for services to be announced shortly.	

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nick Davis 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, May 20, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit)

Gail Dumont stated that she had heard complaints regarding the fact that the Board of Selectmen members are not attending any School Committee meetings. Nick Davis stated that he would try to attend these meetings. Ms. Dumont stated that the next meeting of the Briggs Committee is on Wednesday, May 8th with a walkthrough at 5:30 p.m. followed by the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Nick Davis noted that he had received complaints from residents stating that they haven't received any responses from the Selectmen on their inquiries. Doug Briggs stated that he has always responded or passed on any questions to the Selectmen. Leo Janssens stated that the Board would be set up with Town emails soon which will make it easier for residents to reach them. Mr. Briggs reiterated that we do respond quickly to any issues.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:08 p. m. Nick Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte
Assistant to the Town Administrator