

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2014 – 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, and Doug Briggs, Town Administrator. Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator was absent.

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)

Lois Somers presented the Board of Selectmen with a request to form a nine member study committee to investigate further into the VMS Building use. Lois Somers read as follows:

“Since the Board of Selectmen has stated that they will not add an article on the annual town meeting to transfer custody of the Veterans Memorial School to the Board, and since the School is costing very little to maintain in its present condition, and in order to not make a hasty irrevocable mistake by tearing it down, I request that the Board of Selectmen form a study committee to investigate the following areas which may not have been investigated completely by the previous study committee.

1. *Are there any potential uses for the building not being met in any other way that could enrich the lives of the citizens of Ashburnham and potentially create business partnerships to increase our tax basis.*
2. *Are there any potential grants available now or that will be available in the foreseeable future that would help with the renovation or parts of the renovation.*
3. *What would it cost per year to renovate the building in stages.*
4. *What would the potential operating cost be to the town to maintain this building if it were once again usable.*
5. *Would it be more cost effective to tear the building down or to use the money already approved to start renovating.*

To insure a fresh look, I would recommend a committee of nine (9) people with no person who served on the first committee serving on this new committee. I further suggest a timeframe of one (1) year for the committee to perform a rigorous analysis. The following four (4) people have agreed to serve on this new committee.

*Carmine Antidormi
5 Log Cabin Rd.
978-252-5275*

*Marcy Corby
2 Fairview Pk.
978-827-6837*

*Lois Somers
171 Fitchburg Rd.
978-827-4301*

*Lincoln Stiles
9 Pleasant St.
978-827-4016*

Every single person that I talked with (including David Christianson, George Cornwall, Chris Gagnon, Greg Fagan, Bob Munroe, Kim Ansin, Bill Webber, Jim Robertson and many more) thought that much more thought and fact finding should be given to this building before reaching a decision.”

After a short discussion, Leo Janssens noted that this request would be placed on the next agenda for discussion.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Nick Davis motioned to approve the agenda as presented and Duncan Phyfe seconded. Motion carried.

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORT

A. Public Hearing – CDBG Grant (Kevin Flynn from MRPC) 6:44 p.m.

Kevin Flynn distributed handouts to the Selectmen and gave a brief presentation. *After some discussion the Board of Selectmen voted to adopt the Ashburnham Community Development*

Strategy with a 3-year application. Duncan Phyfe made the motion and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Leo Janssens noted that the Board would like to go forward with an “Evening with the Selectmen” and to set a date in February on a Tuesday night. Mr. Janssens stated that he would contact Sylvia Turcotte to set this up.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE

Doug Briggs stated that we still need members on many Boards and Committees but especially the Cable Advisory Board. He noted that there is only a year until our cable contract is done, so we need more members.

He noted that since the last meeting and with the holidays he was able to take advantage of some vacation and personal time.

Mr. Briggs noted that he was still working on the DPW Union contract and would be meeting with them on Wednesday, January 8, 2014. He also noted that it was time to discuss the new DPW facility on Williams Road. A discussion followed with the Selectmen voting to move forward. *Duncan Phyfe made the motion to proceed with the DPW facility workup and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried.*

Doug Briggs stated that all FY15 budgets had been received and that he would start budget reviews the week of January 13th. He also noted that the Governor’s budget was due on January 16th and that a meeting was scheduled for the Advisory Board on January 27th. Mr. Briggs stated that the Board of Selectmen would open the warrant on February 3rd with the closing date of March 18th. He also noted that the Capital Planning Committee would be meeting to review the Capital items and that the warrant would be posted on 4/18 with the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, May 6th at 7:00 p.m.

Mr. Briggs noted that the 3rd quarter tax bills were mailed out on December 31st and that the police grievance regarding shift swaps had been resolved.

He also wanted to remind the residents again of the winter parking ban during storms and of the Town’s bylaw which states that no resident/or persons are allowed to place or throw snow onto any public roadway.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 16, 2013 Minutes – Regular Meeting

Duncan Phyfe made the motion to approve the minutes of December 16, 2013 and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE None

X. JANUARY MEETINGS and EVENTS – Nick Davis read the meetings and events as follows:

Thursday, January 9, 6:30 p.m. – Planning Board – Lower Level at Town Hall

Monday, January 13, 7:00 p.m. – Veterans Memorial Committee – Training Room at PSB

Tuesday, January 14, 6:00 p.m. – Water/Sewer Commission – Lower Level at Town Hall

Monday, January 20 – Martin Luther King Holiday

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.

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 2014 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 7:25 p. m. Nick Davis motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Duncan Phye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Briggs
Town Administrator