
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.
TRAINING ROOM AT PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

This meeting is aired live and taped for local television.

PRESENT: Leo Janssens II, Chair, Duncan Phye, 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 minutes limit)

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Duncan Phye made the motion to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried.

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

A. Joint Meeting with Library Trustees – Appointment of Trustee

Library Trustees present were Ed Vitone, Chair, Margaret Donovan, Vice Chair, Maggie Whitney, Secretary, and Paula Dowd, Member. Also in attendance was the new Library Director, Emily Donnelly.

Leo Janssens stated that one of the applicants was present, Tara Watson, and that they would ask her to tell them a little about herself. Tara Watson spoke briefly about her qualifications as well as why she wanted to serve on the Board of Trustees for the Library. She stated that she had a strong interest and wanted to take the Library to the next step which should include ebooks. Ed Vitone noted that the Trustees set the policy and asked how Ms. Watson would be able to cross over to knowledge management. Ms. Watson stated that she had worked and had the opportunity to work this role and that she would work as a team. Leo Janssens stated that Ms. Watson had two degrees in Library Science and asked what experience she had working in a library. Ms. Watson stated that she had experience in public libraries and that she now works in a corporate library.

Doug Briggs read the letter from the other applicant, Candace Wright, who was not able to attend the meeting.

Leo Janssens stated that because Candace Wright is Nick Davis' mother in law, he will not vote.

A roll call vote was taken as follows:

Ed Vitone – Candace Wright	Maggie Whitney – Candace Wright
Margaret Donovan – Tara Watson	Duncan Phyfe – Tara Watson
Paula Dowd – Tara Watson	Leo Janssens – Candace Wright

With the vote a tie, Ed Vitone looked to Ms. Watson. She stated that they should go with Candace Wright and that she would run in April for this position. She also noted that this would make for a smoother transition. Ms. Watson formally withdrew.

Another roll call vote was taken as follows:

Ed Vitone – Candace Wright	Maggie Whitney – Candace Wright
Margaret Donovan – Candace Wright	Duncan Phyfe – Candace Wright
Paula Dowd – Candace Wright	Leo Janssens – Candace Wright

Ed Vitone thanked Tara Watson for coming to the meeting and stated that the vote was unanimous for Candace Wright.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Vote to authorize permit for a Ceremonial Bonfire for the 250th Celebration event

Doug Briggs stated that the Fire Department was in favor of this event but noted that only one bonfire a year was allowed. He noted that the Police Department's only concern was the weather and that two officers would be assigned. He also added that the 250th Committee was aware that the Fire Dept. will have an engine at the event and that the Police would have two officers present. **Nick Davis made the motion to approve the bonfire event and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.**

B. Veterans Day Ceremony November 11th – Selectman to speak

After some discussion, Duncan Phyfe stated that he would be the speaker at the Veterans Day ceremony on November 11th.

C. Appoint a Member to the School Superintendent Search Committee

Doug Briggs noted that this appointment has to be a resident of the Town. Duncan Phyfe stated that he would be interested in serving as the Ashburnham representative on this Committee. **Nick Davis made the motion to recommend Duncan Phyfe and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.**

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Doug Briggs began his report by stating that there was a desperate need for members to serve on the Zoning Board of Appeals. He added that this is a difficult committee but that it is very rewarding.

He stated that the water main replacement is now complete on Williams Road and Holden Street and the addition of Turnpike Road to the project was approved with work to begin soon.

Mr. Briggs stated that E. Rindge Road to Young Road would be leveled and overlaid, weather permitting as rain is forecasted for most of this week.

He stated that Cushing Academy has notified us that they have rescinded their interest in pursuing the discontinuance of Pleasant Street.

He stated that we have been accepted for the \$12,500 grant for a level 2 audit of town buildings such as Town Hall, Public Safety Building and Overlook. He added that the Library audit should be done within the next month. He noted that the Town's application for the "Green Community" status has been submitted this past Friday. He thanked Mark Carlisle, Sylvia Turcotte, Mike Rivers, Kim Boas, of MMWED, Kelly Brown, of the MA Dept. of Energy Resources, Stan Herriott, Anne Olivari and Ralph Hicks for their help in getting this submitted on time. He stated that this grant would be used for solar panels, new furnaces, etc. and that we should hear at the end of next month if we've been accepted.

Mr. Briggs noted that free cash is awaiting certification which should be finalized on Thursday. There was some discussion on Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting warrant regarding the sewer assessment deficit.

He stated that the negotiations with Comcast are progressing and that he would be meeting along with Westminster, and Attorney Bill Solomon, on October 31st to resolve the contract.

Mr. Briggs stated that he has appointed his new Fire Chief, Paul E. Rekos Sr. He stated that Paul has worked for the Town since 2004 and worked his way up the ranks to Captain. He added that Chief Rekos will do a great job for the Town. He also noted that the Selection Committee did a great job and presented him with three very good candidates. He explained the process that the Committee followed and thanked them for their service.

He noted that Kinder Morgan would be holding an Open House on the gas pipeline at Oakmont Regional High School in the auditorium on Thursday, November 20th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. He also added that the series of open house events would be put on the website for everyone's information in case they are unable to attend the November 20th event.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 6, 2014 Minutes – Regular Meeting

Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the minutes from the October 6, 2014 Regular Meeting and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried.

B. October 14, 2014 Minutes – Special Meeting

Leo Janssens motioned to approve the minutes from the October 14, 2014 Special Meeting and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried. Duncan Phyfe was not in attendance.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

X. OCTOBER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Tuesday, October 28th @7:00 p.m. – Special Town Meeting at Oakmont
- Tuesday, November 4th State Election

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.
- October 28, Tuesday – Special Town Meeting 7:00 p.m. at Oakmont Regional High School Auditorium, 9 Oakmont Drive.
- November 3, Monday – 12:00 noon, last day for filing applications for absentee ballots for voters who will be out of town for the State Election.
- November 4, Tuesday – State Election – Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. at J.R. Briggs Elementary School Gym, 96 Williams Road.
- The \$50.00 fines have been sent to those residents who have not licensed their dog(s). The dog owner will then be responsible to pay a total fine of \$75.00 per dog in addition to the licensing fee.

Trick or Treat will be held on Friday, October 31st from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Chapel and Lawrence Street will be closed to through traffic. Donated candy can be dropped off at the Public Safety Building and will be distributed to those homes on Chapel and Lawrence.

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday, November 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit)

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 7:00 p.m. Leo Janssens stated that the Board of Selectmen would enter into Executive Session to deliberate upon matters which, if done in open meeting could detrimentally affect the position of the Town regarding strategy with respect to contract negotiations for non-union employees and to reconvene in open session only to adjourn. Nick Davis made the motion to enter into Executive Session and was seconded by Duncan Phye. Roll call was taken.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:35 p.m. Leo Janssens motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Duncan Phye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte
Assistant to the Town Administrator