
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 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 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 minutes limit) None

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

A. Library Memorandum of Understanding – Ed Vitone, Chair, Library Trustees

Present – Ed Vitone, Library Trustees Chair and Maggie Whitney, Secretary.

Leo Janssens stated that the MOU would cover how the finances would be handled for the Library through the Town. Ed Vitone stated that the Trustees voted to approve the MOU at their last meeting. ***Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the MOU for the Library and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried.***

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of Veterans Day Service

Duncan Phyfe, who was the guest speaker, stated that the services went very well but that there was a small crowd this year.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Doug Briggs began his report by stating that effective today, Jerry Descoteaux officially retired. He stated his thanks to Jerry for serving as the Interim Fire Chief and for all the years of service he has given to the Town and the Department. He noted his sincere thanks.

He stated that today they were notified that there were no more questions to answer on the Green Energy application and that the decision to designate Ashburnham as a Green Community may be made on December 3rd.

Mr. Briggs stated that the water main replacement is completed on Turnpike Road and the actual road repair, re-paving, would begin in the spring after the thaw. He also noted that once the weather conditions improved, paving was done on E. Rindge Road to Young Road and was completed in one day and it looks great.

He noted that all the paperwork has been filed with the State to get our new growth certified and after the classification hearing on December 1st the FY15 tax rate would be set. He added that the delays this year have been due to the interpretation of the solar projects tax assessment requirements.

Mr. Briggs stated that the negotiations with Comcast on our joint cable contract with the Town of Westminster should be done by the end of the year.

He stated that the next Fire Union negotiations meeting is on November 20th and the contract requests would be discussed in Executive Session tonight.

He noted that Kinder Morgan has delayed all their scheduled Open House meetings due to paperwork processing and that they would be rescheduled around the beginning of 2015. He also added that all the information received regarding the pipeline has been posted on our Town website on the home page.

He stated that in conjunction with Westminster and the School District an RFP was sent out for health care coverage. He noted that they met today and it looks like there will be an increase.

He stated that the cameras at Winchester Park have been changed and are working well.

He also noted that he has started to meet with the Class II license holders to review their operations and that a notice was sent out to all license holders that their renewals are coming up for 2015. He added that the Board of Selectmen would be voting on the license renewals at their meeting on Monday, December 15th.

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 None

X. NOVEMBER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Tuesday, November 18 @6:00 p.m. – Water/Sewer Commission – Lower Level Town Hall

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.
- 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.

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday, December 1, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit) None

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 ongoing collective bargaining and to reconvene in open session only to adjourn. Duncan Phyfe made the motion to enter into Executive Session and was seconded by Nick Davis. Roll call was taken.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:26 p.m. Leo Janssens motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte
Assistant to the Town Administrator