

# *BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES*

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.  
TRAINING ROOM AT PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING**

This meeting was aired live and taped for local television.

PRESENT: Leo Janssens II, Chair, Nick Davis, Clerk, Doug Briggs, Town Administrator, and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. Duncan Phyfe was not in attendance.

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

***Nick Davis made the motion to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.***

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS    None

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tree Lighting and Santa Parade

Leo Janssens stated that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Tree Lighting and Santa Parade was held on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup> and the weather was perfect. He stated that Doug Briggs gave a speech and Santa lit the lights. The event was very well attended with between 400 and 500 adults and children enjoying the festivities along with the cookies and hot chocolate. Doug Briggs stated that it was very festive, everything was flawless and the Parks & Rec Committee did a great job.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval – Board of Selectmen License Renewals for 2015

LIQUOR LICENSES	COMMON VICTUALLER	REPAIRMAN'S CLASS IV
Turnpike Rod & Gun Club	Turnpike Rod & Gun Club	Ashburnham Collision Center
American Legion Post #142	American Legion Post #142	Ashburnham Marine & Power
Tweedo's Variety & Pizza	Tweedo's Variety & Pizza	Rick's Auto Repair & Service
Mr. Mike's Market	Mr. Mike's Market	Roy's Auto Repair
Ashburnham Wine & Spirits	Cumberland Farms	
Ashburnham Marketplace	Dunkin Donuts	USED CAR CLASS II
Brothers Pizza & Grill	Lucky Dragon ii	Ashburnham Marine & Power
Hillside Cellars	Village Pizza	DJ's Classic Cars
	Daily Grind & Bagel	John P. Spuria & Sons
COIN-OPERATED MACHINES	Ashburnham Marketplace	
Turnpike Rod & Gun Club	The Peppermint Pig	
American Legion Post #142	Brothers Pizza & Grill	

Leo Janssens read the list of licenses to be renewed by category and the votes were as follows:

- Liquor Licenses Nick Davis motioned to approve and was seconded by Leo Janssens.
- Coin Operated Nick Davis motioned to approve and was seconded by Leo Janssens.
- Common Victualler Nick Davis motioned to approve and was seconded by Leo Janssens.
- Repairman's Class IV Nick Davis motioned to approve and was seconded by Leo Janssens.
- Used Car Class II Nick Davis motioned to approve and was seconded by Leo Janssens.

## VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Doug Briggs began his report by stating that the tax rate had been set at \$22.28 after some confusion by the DOR regarding the Briggs School Project which led to the delay.

He stated that the cable contract with Comcast is in the final stages and they should be meeting this week.

He stated that there's a meeting on Wednesday with the Fire Union.

Mr. Briggs stated that the health insurance coverage for the Town will increase by 10.8% from January through June and in July they would renegotiate for less of an increase.

He reported they have been notified by Kinder Morgan that the pipeline will no longer be going through Ashburnham but through an alternate route in New Hampshire.

He noted that Paul Aho, a long-time Municipal Grounds employee, has resigned and will be relocating to Maine to pursue a new career opportunity. He added that he will be missed and we wish him well.

He stated that the COA Christmas party which was put on by the former Friends group on December 11<sup>th</sup> was a great success. He stated that they had over 50 participants who enjoyed the great meal put on by the Friends group. He also noted that they were looking into a joint COA with the Town of Westminster. He stated that if it happens it would be in July. He also stated that a questionnaire will be sent out asking what the seniors in town would want to see in their senior center.

He noted that he was considering a CDBG grant application process again this year but that now that its fee based, it may not make sense to go forward as the success of the applications recently has not been really high.

Mr. Briggs noted that for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year in a row our Town Report took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Category II (population 5,000-12,499) by the MMA. He stated that Sylvia Turcotte has done a great job putting our report together and that due to her efforts the Town Report is a great historical reference.

He noted that he was pleased to report that the Town of Ashburnham has been designated as a Green Community and that we have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$150k. He stated that this grant would be used to do a phase 2 audit and closed door testing on the Library, Town Hall, Public Safety Building and the Light Plant. He stated that they have until February 1<sup>st</sup> to

submit for these funds. He thanked the Energy Committee members, Mark Carlisle and Mike Rivers as well as Kelly Brown and Kim Boas for all their efforts. He also noted that the Light Department is looking for a grant to replace all lights in Town with LED bulbs.

He stated that he received a request from Tyler Wolanin, legislative aide to State Senator Anne Gobi, to set up a meeting room at Town Hall on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1:00 p.m. to meet with any interested constituents or town officials. We have advised him that the Lower Level Meeting Room at Town Hall would be available for this purpose.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. December 1, 2014 Minutes – Regular Meeting

B. December 4, 2014 Minutes – Special Meeting

***Nick Davis motioned to approve the minutes from the December 1, 2014 Regular Meeting and the December 4, 2014 Special Meeting and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.***

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE                      None

X. DECEMBER MEETINGS AND EVENTS - Nick Davis read the following:

- Tuesday, December 16 @7:00 p.m. – 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee – Lower Level Town Hall

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS - Nick Davis read the following:

Town Clerk Reminders:

- January 1<sup>st</sup> 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 first of many events celebrating the Town’s 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the Christmas Tree Bonfire and Family Skate, will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2015 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Fitchburg Sportsmen’s Club, Swallow Hill, Route 119. You can drop off trees at Landry Field, 8 Williams Road, from January 3<sup>rd</sup> thru January 15<sup>th</sup> for this event.

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday, January 5, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building. The Board of Selectmen extends their wishes for a Happy Holiday Season to all!

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit)                      None

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION    None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

***At 6:50 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