
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 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, and Doug Briggs, Town Administrator. Nick Davis and Sylvia Turcotte were not present.

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)

Jeff Lindquist from Camp Winnekeag came to ask the proper procedure for putting an article on a town meeting; Doug Briggs stated that for a special town meeting they would need 100 certified registered signatures and for the annual 10 certified registered. He stated that taxes were delinquent on the dam and he asked if the Town would want to take ownership. Selectman Janssens stated that due to the liabilities that come with owning the dam; the town is not interested we already have five. Mr. Lindquist also inquired as to whether the town was a part of a water shed district much like they have in Leicester MA. which could allow the owner of the dam to levy a fee on the lake residents as opposed to having a Lake Association. Mr. Briggs will look into the pros and cons of this type of classification.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Duncan Phye 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 Special Town Meeting held on Tuesday, October 28, 2014

Duncan Phye stated that some resident were asking about the mailing of the warrant to residents which is costly and asked if Code Red could be used as an alternative to notify voters of Town Meetings in the future and Mr. Briggs stated that it could be done as we have used it in the past .

Doug Briggs stated that the meeting went very well, about an hour. He noted that Article 8 was the Citizens Petition regarding the Tennessee Gas Pipeline and that the Town has already complied with number 1 listed in this petition, by sending letters to our legislators and number 3 with the letter from the Board of Selectmen the “Recission of Survey Permission” dated April 7,

2014. He also stated that Sylvia has incorporated a folder on the town's website home page where residents can view all the information that the town has received regarding this subject.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Review and Approval of the 250th Celebration Committee's Invitation to the Opening of the Ashburnham Century Box

Duncan Phyfe made the motion to approve the invitation as presented and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Doug Briggs began by listing the openings on Boards and Committees with the Zoning Board of Appeals in desperate need of new members.

He stated that the Water Main replacement is complete on Turnpike Road and that road repairs will begin in the spring after the thaw.

He noted that due to weather conditions, the road work on E. Rindge Road to Young Road was delayed but should be done tomorrow, Tuesday, November 4th and will take only a few days to complete.

He stated that Comcast has responded to our RFP and both Ashburnham and Westminster in conjunction with our lawyer Bill Solomon are in negotiations with them. He added that the negotiations are progressing and that they met on Friday, October 31st.

Mr. Briggs stated that the Fire Union negotiations will begin again on November 12th.

He stated that Kinder Morgan will hold an Open House discussion 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 added that Sylvia has added a special section on the Town's website home page where up to date information has been placed to keep the general population informed.

He stated that together with Westminster and the School District, we sent out an RFP for health care insurance coverage. He noted that initial indicators show an increase of about 11.8% but we are still negotiating as well as looking at other coverage options. He added that due to the time constraints, we will need to move forward as the insurance year begins on January 1st.

Mr. Briggs stated that the cameras at Winchester Park have been changed and are now operational. A new LED lighting fixture will be added to improve monitoring capability. A motion light will also be put in the gazebo as an added option.

He noted that the School District received word that they have been awarded a grant in the amount of \$350,000 towards the conversion of the oil heating system to biomass pellet boilers at the Overlook Middle School.

He stated that the Board of Selectmen has been asked to vote to revise the current rate of compensation for participants in the Senior Work-Off Program from its present rate of \$7.50 an hour to the present state minimum wage of \$8.00 an hour. He noted that they would also authorize the current cap rate of \$750 exemption to a new rate of \$1,000 with total volunteer hours of 125. He added that currently we have two seniors in the program. ***Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the changes as noted and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.***

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 20, 2014 Minutes – Regular Meeting

Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2014 Regular Meeting and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

None

X. NOVEMBER MEETINGS AND EVENTS - Duncan Phyfe read the list as follows:

- Tuesday, November 11 – VETERANS DAY HOLIDAY
- Wednesday, November 12 @5:00 p.m. – Board of Assessors – Assessors Office Town Hall
- Tuesday, November 18 @6:00 p.m. – Water/Sewer Commission – Lower Level Town Hall

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS - Duncan Phyfe 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.
- 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.
- PLEASE NOTE: VOTERS GOING TO THE POLLS ON TUESDAY SHOULD FOLLOW THE SIGNS TO THE REAR OF THE SCHOOL WHERE THE GYM ENTRANCE IS LOCATED. PARKING IS ON THE RIGHT HAND SIDE OF THE DRIVEWAY. THERE IS PARKING IN FRONT OF THE SCHOOL HOWEVER THERE IS NO ACCESS TO THE GYM THROUGH THE FRONT ENTRANCE. PLEASE SEE THE MAP ON THE TOWN WEBSITE www.ashburnham-ma.gov UNDER “WHERE TO GO TO VOTE AT BRIGGS”.
- 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.

Duncan Phyfe noted that the Veterans Day Services would be held on Tuesday, November 11th at 11:00 a.m. in front of Town Hall. It was noted that Duncan Phyfe would be the speaker for the Board of Selectmen.

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday, November 17, 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 - None

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:10 p.m. Duncan Phyfe motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Leo Janssens.
Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Briggs
Town Administrator