

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 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, 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 minute limit)

Kristin Marquis, a new resident on Ferin Road who was the spokesperson for others present, stated that the mail delivery there was a problem. He stated that they have not received any mail for weeks and that they were told that a multi-unit box would be placed somewhere in the area for their use. He stated that they didn't want this, but they did want the DPW to take care of the roads. Mr. Janssens suggested that they bring their complaint to the federal level. He also noted that the postal employee is the one that can't make it up the road. He noted that they should also pursue where the box would be located with the postmaster. Mr. Marquis stated that the road is not well maintained, the culverts are not cleared and the road needs proper drainage and grading. Mr. Briggs stated that he was under the impression that it was all taken care of once the DPW went and fixed the road and that he was unaware that the mail was not being delivered. Nancy Fiske noted that there is a system but that it hasn't worked and Mr. Marquis added that there was a communication breakdown. He stated that this issue needs town level pressure to get resolved. Ms. Fiske stated that the roads have to be passable. Nick Davis stated that he would go and speak with the Postmaster on this issue and asked if they could give it a few weeks to get resolution.

Bill Johnson asked if Ferin Road was plowed by the Town or a private contractor and Duncan Phyfe stated that the majority is plowed by private contractors who are hired by the Town.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORT None

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion on vote to rescind permission to survey

Nick Davis stated that this has been a frustrating process with no answers. He stated that in his opinion they should take action and rescind the vote to giving them permission to survey the town-owned property. Duncan Phyfe stated that they never agreed to come to our meeting tonight and he doesn't want to rescind the vote that was taken as it wouldn't be fair. Leo Janssens stated that they could wait until Monday, April 14th as they will be here on Wednesday and Mr. Davis stated that he didn't want to wait.

Nick Davis made the motion to rescind the vote and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Two members were in favor and one was opposed. Leo Janssens reminded everyone that the presentation by the Tennessee Gas Pipeline would be held on Wednesday, April 9th at 6:30 p.m. upstairs at Town Hall.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Class II Used Car Dealer's License Approval

Leo Janssens stated that the license was for Charlie's Towing and Recovery, at 180 Center Street, which is owned by Charles Bergeron. He noted that they have six stipulations which were set by the Zoning Board of Appeals. ***Duncan Phyfe made the motion to approve the license with the stipulations and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried.***

B. Approval of a One-Day Liquor License – Ashburnham Historical Society

Leo Janssens stated that the Historical Society will hold a Fundraiser Art Show on June 6th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. and they are asking for a Wine and Beer Only Permit. Doug Briggs stated that there were no issues with Police or Fire with this request. ***Nick Davis motioned to approve and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.***

C. Approval of the April 29, 2014 Town Election Warrant

Leo Janssens read the list of open positions and ballot question as listed on the warrant:

“One Moderator – For one year term

One Board of Selectmen – For three year term

One Board of Health – For three year term

One Planning Board – For five year term

Two Library Trustees – For three year term

One Municipal Light Board – For three year term

Two Ashburnham School Committee – For three year term

Two Westminster School Committee – For three year term

Question #1 Debt Exclusion: Shall the Town of Ashburnham be allowed to exempt from the provisions of Proposition 2½, so called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued in order to design and construct the new DPW, Water & Sewer facility?”

Nick Davis asked Doug Briggs to give a short explanation on the term “debt exclusion”. Doug Briggs stated that it requires two things, a vote at Town Meeting and that vote being contingent upon the 2½ override. He also gave a brief history of the DPW facility and the need for the new one.

Nick Davis made the motion to approve the posting of the warrant for the Town Election and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.

VII TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Doug Briggs stated that the warrant for the Annual Town Meeting is nearly complete and that he was meeting with the Advisory Board on Tuesday, April 8th for their recommendations.

He stated that Kinder Morgan representing Tennessee Gas Pipeline would be putting on a presentation on Wednesday, April 9th at 6:30 p.m. upstairs in the Town Hall. He noted that he is expecting at least 80 to 100 to be in attendance. He noted that he basically had to get upset with Kinder Morgan in order to get them to commit. Duncan Phyfe stated that he sent out for questions to be sent to them beforehand so that they can come prepared.

Mr. Briggs stated that the plans for the new DPW facility are advancing. He stated that an Open House has been scheduled for Saturday, April 19th from 9:00 a.m. to noon at the present DPW site at 17 Central Street. He also stated that the presentation/information on the proposed new site is on the Town's website and the AWCATV on demand. He stated that the estimated cost of \$8m would be partly

covered by the Water/Sewer Departments. He noted that the new facility would be a metal structure and all the DEP concerns would be covered.

He stated that the Asbestos remediation at the VMS building has been contracted to Premier Abatement and they will begin on Wednesday, April 9th and should be completed in about two weeks.

In regards to the Water Line Replacement at Williams Road, Westminster Road, South Maple Avenue and Holden Street, Doug Briggs stated that he has received confirmation from James Fritz III of Rural Development that the Town has been offered a loan of \$1,418,000 and a grant of \$607,000 which is a 29.98% grant to loan ratio. He added that the loan would be for 40 years at 3.25%. He stated that the work would begin in early summer and they would try to work with the school schedule as there are three schools on these lines. He added that they would patch the roads this year and then next year they would do a full reclamation.

He stated that he went out for bids for property and liability insurance on March 19th and they were due on April 16th.

Mr. Briggs stated that he would be on vacation from April 17th through April 24th.

Mr. Briggs noted that the Ashburnham/Westminster Rotary is disbanding and they would like to donate \$1,000 to the Senior Center and he was asking for the Board's approval to accept this. ***Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the acceptance of this donation and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried unanimously.***

He also noted that this year's Employee of the Year was Richard Reynolds, our Building Commissioner who has put in a lot of time with all the projects that have been going on this past year in Town which includes the Solar Project, the new Briggs Elementary School and the Water Line project, to name a few.

He also reminded everyone about the Hazardous Waste Day to be held on April 26th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon at the Highway Bard, 17 Central Street.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A. March 17, 2014 Minutes – Regular Meeting
- B. March 31, 2014 Minutes – Special Meeting

Nick Davis motioned to approve the minutes for the March 17, 2014 Regular Meeting and the March 31, 2014 Special Meeting and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.

Nick Davis asked everyone that would be attending the meeting on Wednesday to keep it civil.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE None

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

- Tuesday, April 8, 6:00 p.m. – Water Sewer Commission – Lower Level at Town Hall
- Tuesday, April 8, 6:30 p.m. – Advisory Board – Training Room at Public Safety Building
- Wednesday, April 9, 6:30 p.m. – Board of Selectmen Meeting – Presentation on Gas Pipeline in the upstairs meeting room at Town Hall
- Thursday, April 10, 7:00 p.m. – Planning Board – Lower Level at Town Hall

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.
- April 9th – from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. – Final registration for the Town Election in Town Clerk’s office at Town Hall.
- Dog licenses are now available at the Town Clerk’s office. Fees are \$10 for altered dogs and \$15 for unaltered dogs. Please bring the current rabies certificate. If licensing by mail, please include check, rabies certificate and a self-addressed envelope to be mailed to the Town Clerk’s Office, 32 Main Street, Ashburnham. Also, online payments can be made for dog license RENEWALS ONLY. Please call the Town Clerk’s office first at 978-827-4100 ext. 114 to verify that a current rabies certificate is on file. Complete the information online and the dog license will be mailed.

The 2nd Annual Easter Egg Hunt put on by the Parks & Recreation Committee, will be held on Saturday, April 12th at 1:00 p.m. at Sweeney Park on South Main Street. The event is for Pre-Kindergarten thru 5th grade children and they should bring a basket for their eggs. Rain date is Sunday, April 13th.

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday, April 14, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit)

An attendee who didn’t give her name inquired as to the location of the Town-owned properties that the pipeline was interested in. Doug Briggs stated that she should send him an email request and he would respond.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

***At 7:17 p. m. Duncan Phyfe motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Nick Davis.
Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte
Assistant to the Town Administrator