

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, MAY 19, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.
TRAINING ROOM AT PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

This meeting was aired live and taped for local cable television.

PRESENT: Leo Janssens II, Chair, Nick Davis, Clerk, Doug Briggs, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. Duncan Phyfe was absent.

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)

Janice Roy asked why the VMS land was being dug up and Mr. Briggs answered that Stan Herriott and his crew were placing electrical wires underground.

A gentleman inquired how much the Town spends on repairs and maintenance of their vehicles and why they don't do it in-house. Mr. Briggs responded that they don't have the facility to do the repairs and maintenance and he didn't have the amount that is spent on repairs and maintenance, as it's up to each department. Janice Roy inquired as to if they had hydro-seeded yet at the VMS site and Mr. Briggs said that they didn't do it yet.

Pixie Brennan inquired as to why a police cruiser was always parked at the dining hall at Cushing during the noon hour. Mr. Briggs stated that they are eating and that Cushing expects a Police presence now that they are paying for a patrolman.

Ms. Brennan questioned why a Cushing vehicle drives through the cemetery while they are visiting a loved one's grave. She stated it was very intrusive and she would like the Town Administrator to address this and come back with responses to both her questions.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Nick Davis motioned to approve the agenda as presented and Leo Janssens seconded. Motion carried.

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review from Library Trustees

Nick Davis stated that he was disappointed that they were not able to present the DPW plan. He stated that the voters had concerns about taxes and the frustration with the new Briggs school. He noted that the Board of Selectmen can only do so much and we need more people to be involved. It was noted by Noel McGonigle that they need more signage to say where meetings are being held and to get information out. Doug Briggs stated that on the Town's new website, under "subscribe to news" residents can sign up for notifications. He stated that he would send out a letter with this information in the Light bills.

Doug Briggs stated that he thought the Town Meeting went well, a little over two hours. He noted that there was a lot of concern about taxes. He stated that the Town is getting less funding from the state with many more mandates. He stated that the foreclosure rate was also a concern due to a backlog of houses for sale five years ago. He noted that hopefully we will see property values go up which would

help with the tax rate increases. He added that the new Briggs school was a big part of the \$2.72 increase.

Leo Janssens stated that he heard rumors that some residents were saying that the Highway doesn't deserve a new facility. He stated that people shouldn't blame them and that the cost to fix the roads was \$100k per mile. Doug Briggs noted that the Town spends about \$800k a year on roads.

Nick Davis asked what are we doing to decrease taxes? He stated that moving the DPW and generating more businesses is the key. He stated we should be business friendly. He added that eventually the DPW would have to be upgraded.

Lorna Fields stated that the townspeople are skeptical, too many irons in the fire right now and it's overwhelming especially to the elderly who live here.

Leo Janssens stated that the DPW facility would be re-addressed with a new plan. Mr. Briggs stated that the present DPW site is considered to be a clean site per the DEP. And Pixie Brennan stated that everyone knows it's needed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Request from Library Trustees

Leo Janssens stated that the Library Trustees want to meet with a member of the Board of Selectmen before May 31st regarding the Library Director's vacation compensation. He stated that the Board members received this letter a few weeks ago. He stated that Duncan Phyfe is willing to meet with them. **Leo Janssens motioned to appoint Duncan Phyfe to meet with the Library Trustees to inform the Board of Selectmen of their concerns. Nick Davis seconded and the motion carried.**

Mr. Janssens stated that the Trustees were asking for \$2,802.60 for vacation compensation for the Library Director. He stated that according to Town Labor Counsel we can only give her the time not the money and Mr. Janssens state that he suggests that the Board doesn't approve the check amount and just gives her the time. Nick Davis stated that they should probably wait for Duncan Phyfe to discuss this. Mr. Janssens stated that the Director needs to take the time now before the end of the fiscal year. Doug Briggs stated that she has 93 hours as of June 1st but that according to our Personnel Bylaws, she can roll-over 40 hours. He stated that the Trustees were notified of Town Counsel's opinion back in October. He added that he is forcing everyone to use or lose their vacation time. Nick Davis stated that she can roll-over 40 hours so she would only have to use 43 hours by June 30th. **Leo Janssens made the motion to grant time but not a cash payout to the Library Director and Nick Davis seconded. Motion carried.**

Mr. Briggs stated that he would send a memo to the Trustees regarding this vote and also that Duncan would be meeting with them. He added that he would get the Trustees email addresses as well.

B. Request for Special Liquor License

Leo Janssens stated that Cushing Academy is planning their Reunion Celebration weekend for June 6, 7 and 8, 2014, and that they are looking for the Board's approval for an all alcohol special liquor license for this event. Doug Briggs stated that there were no issues with the Police Chief or the Fire Chief. **Nick Davis made the motion to approve their request and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.**

C. Vote to appoint Town Treasurer as Custodial of Tax Possession Property

Doug Briggs explained that this would allow Paul Pollastri to make decisions at auctions to accept bids. Leo Janssens read the motion as follows: **"As provided under MGL Chapter 60, Section 77B, I Leo Janssens hereby move to appoint Paul A. Pollastri, Town Treasurer, as Tax Possession Custodian who**

shall have the care, custody, management and control of all property acquired by foreclosure, deed in-lieu of foreclosure or by treasurer’s deed for unpaid taxes.” Nick Davis seconded and the motion carried.

D. Discussion on Board of Selectmen summer meeting schedule

Leo Janssens stated that during the months of July and August the Board of Selectmen has chosen to meet only once each month and this year they are looking at July 21st and August 18th. **Nick Davis made the motion to set July 21st and August 18th as their summer months meeting dates. Leo Janssens seconded and the motion carried.**

E. Approval of FY15 BOS Appointments

Leo Janssens read the list as follows and made the motion to approve:

Larry Barrett	Constable
Todd Parsons	Constable
Ronald Laplante	Constable
Deborah Phillips	Town Counsel
Mirick O’Connell	Labor Counsel
Coppola & Coppola	Tax Counsel
Leo Janssens II	MART Representative
Duncan Phye	MJTC Representative
Donna Burton	Parking Clerk
Lorraine DeSouza	Mt. Watatic Management
Christopher Picone	Mt. Watatic Management (alternate)
Nicholas DeSimone	MOC Representative for Ashburnham and Westminster
Rebecca Cinclair	Cultural Council
Joseph Von Deck	Historical Commission
Joseph Kalagher	Capital Planning Committee
Bill Johnson	Capital Planning Committee
James Piedrafite	Capital Planning Committee
Tanya Gaylord	Capital Planning Committee ex-officio
Ron Reed	Capital Planning Committee
Paul Pollastri	Capital Planning Committee ex-officio
Duncan Phye	Capital Planning Committee
Richard H. Wright	Agricultural Commission
Ken Hamilton	IT Advisory Board
Brian Kuehl	IT Advisory Board
Doug Briggs	Energy Committee
Stan Herriott	Energy Committee
Mark Carlisle	Energy Committee

Nick Davis seconded and the motion carried.

The following was Leo Janssens appointment:

Nick Davis	MRPC Representative
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Nick Davis made the motion and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.

VII TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S UPDATE

Doug Briggs stated that the Town received \$52,057 from the state for pothole repair this spring and it was used on Route 101 from Cross Street to Mr. Mike’s. He stated that Route 12 is being resurfaced by the State from Old Nims Road to the Winchendon town line. He noted that the New Cemetery entrance is

being reconstructed to include pavement and a rotary with a flagpole and walkway and is scheduled to be completed by Memorial Day.

Mr. Briggs stated that the ad went into the Central Register on May 21st for the water line project and bids will be opened on June 5th. He stated that he and Steve Nims met with MRPC and the design phase of the intersection at William and Corey Hill has been moved up into the FY14 year. He noted that this phase of the project has an estimated cost of \$238,000 to be paid by state and federal funds and the construction phase would be in FY15 or 16. He noted that the state had money left over and they look at the most dangerous intersection per capita and this was one. He added that this project would include the reconstruction of 101 south from Main Street to the Gardner line.

Mr. Briggs stated that the VMS building has been remediated and razed and the site would be hydro-seeded. He thanked Ray Bresnahan for his assistance, he thanked Steve Nims for handling the project and he also thanked Stan Herriott and his crew who have been very helpful.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 14, 2014 Minutes – Regular Meeting

B. April 28 2014 Minutes – Special Meeting

Nick Davis motioned to approve the minutes for the April 14, 2014 Regular Meeting and the April 28th Special Meeting and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE Leo Janssens noted that they were notified by the Library Trustees of a vacancy due to a resignation. He stated that they presently have two names and that if anyone is interested they should come forward with a request.

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

- Wednesday, May 21 – 5:00 p.m. – Board of Assessors’ office at Town Hall
- Thursday, May 22, 6:30 p.m. – Planning Board – Lower Level at Town Hall
- Monday, May 26 – MEMORIAL DAY HOLIDAY

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.
- Dog licenses are available at the Town Clerk’s office. Effective June 1st, fees are \$25.00 for unaltered dogs and \$20.00 for altered dogs. This includes a \$10.00 late fee. Registrations may be made by mail or in person at the Town Clerk’s office. RENEWALS ONLY may be made online. Please call the Town Clerk’s office at 978-827-4100 ext. 114 to verify that current rabies certificate is on file before registering your dog(s) online.

Nick Davis read the following: The Memorial Day services will be held on Monday, May 26th beginning at 7:00 a.m. where delegates will meet at the American Legion. At 7:30 a.m. they will proceed to Sweeney Playground, then 7:45 a.m. at Fairbanks Cemetery, 8:15 a.m. at St. Denis Cemetery, 8:30 a.m. at Bresnahan Pool and at 8:45 a.m. all participants will assemble on Meeting House Hill Common and march to Old and New Cemeteries for services. Following the services, all participants will march to Fairbanks Hall (Town Hall) for the actual services. Also note that the Memorial Day Chicken Barbeque will be held at the American

Legion from 1-3 p.m. for a \$9.00 donation. For reservations or take-out orders, please call the American Legion at 978-827-9966 Monday thru Friday after 2:00 p.m.

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit)

Pixie Brennan noted that the Town Administrator's budget was for \$191,615 and she inquired what Mr. Briggs salary was. He stated that it was \$119,000 and with all benefits it was \$131,000.

Nick Davis noted that he had concerns regarding the intersection of 101 and 12 and also a need for a stop sign at Chapel St. and 101. He stated that he wanted this to be discussed at their next meeting and that Doug Briggs was checking on both issues.

Noel McGonigle had questions regarding how to get an item on a Board of Selectmen's meeting agenda and Leo Janssens explained the process, noting that it is governed by the Open Meeting Law which applies to all towns in Massachusetts.

Nick Davis wanted to let the residents of Ferin Road know that he has been in touch with the Post Office regarding their mail delivery issues and that it should have a positive outcome and is being addressed.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:32 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