
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

MONDAY, JUNE 16, 2014 – 6:30 P.M.
TRAINING ROOM AT PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

This meeting was taped for local cable television. Due to technical difficulties, it was not live.

PRESENT: Leo Janssens II, Chair, Duncan Phyfe, Member, Nick Davis, Member, 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) David Nolan noted that where the stop sign should be on Fairview Avenue, there's a yield sign and he asked that the DPW look into this.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

A. Library Trustees will be present to jointly appoint a Trustee with Board of Selectmen

Trustees in attendance were as follows: Joe VonDeck, Ed Vitone, Margaret Donovan, Paula Dowd, and Paula Kuehl. Also present were the two potential candidates for the Trustee position – Margaret Whitney and John Gallien.

Leo Janssens stated that there were two people interested in this position. He noted that they had already addressed the Trustees and now they would address the Board of Selectmen. He asked Maggie Whitney to come up and give a short outline of her past experience as well as her goals if she is appointed. She noted that she belonged to both the Stevens Library and the Gardner Library, where she noted that they had e-books and that this was something she would like to see offered at Stevens Library. She stated that her number one goal was to give the best service to the Town.

Joseph Gallien came forward and stated that he has lived in Ashburnham since 2003 and was a Trustee with the Gardner Lodge of Elks when he resided in Gardner. He stated that he wants the Stevens Library to be up to date and to fight for what they need and bring kids to the Library in the summer. He noted that they should focus on what's best for the community and not to micro-manage the Library.

Leo Janssens asked for a roll-call vote as follows:

Nick Davis	Maggie Whitney	Ed Vitone	Maggie Whitney
Duncan Phyfe	Maggie Whitney	Paula Kuehl	Joe Gallien
Leo Janssens	Maggie Whitney	Joe Von Deck	Joe Gallien
Paula Dowd	Maggie Whitney	Margaret Donovan	Joe Gallien

It was noted by Mr. Janssens that Maggie Whitney would be the new appointee with a majority of 5 votes.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion on intersection of Routes 12 and 101N

Leo Janssens stated that Nick Davis should speak on this. Mr. Davis stated that where Routes 12 and 101N meet is unsafe and we should be proactive not reactive. He stated that a solid stop sign is needed in order to avoid accidents. Doug Briggs stated that he has started to look into this and asked Steve Nims for a cost. He added that the State sign would need to be moved and once he has all the information he would bring it to the Board. He did note that in the last 15 years there had been only 2 accidents at that intersection. Leo Janssens stated that Mr. Briggs should check with the State to see if this would be their responsibility and not the Town's.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of Discharge of Lien

Leo Janssens stated that the Discharge of Lien was for 10 Dunn Road, Mr. & Mrs. Robidoux and he asked for a motion. ***Duncan Phyfe made the motion to approve the Discharge of Lien and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried.***

B. Approval of Capital Planning Committee appointment

Leo Janssens stated that Noel McGonigle has expressed an interest to serve on the Capital Planning Committee. ***Nick Davis motioned to approve the appointment of Noel McGonigle to the Capital Planning Committee and was seconded by Duncan Phyfe. Motion carried.***

C. Approval of Brian's Road Race

Leo Janssens stated that the Annual Brian's Road Race is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2014. They are requesting to use the Winchester Park area and the Library grounds for this event from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event will include a walk/run, raffles, food, music, etc. This year's proceeds will benefit Jack McInnis and family. Jack is an 8 year old Ashburnham resident who is undergoing treatment for a brain tumor and the proceeds will be used to offset expenses incurred as a result of his diagnosis. Nick Davis noted that this is a great charity and asked that people support the event. ***Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the annual Brian's Road Race to be held on Saturday, September 27, 2014. Nick Davis seconded and the motion carried.***

D. Request from the Ashburnham Business Council to close part of Main Street during the Ashburnham Downtown Day on Saturday, June 28th.

Doug Briggs stated that he hadn't heard back from them as of today and that the \$600 was for a four hour minimum. Meredith Fagan represented the ABC and stated that this was just too short of a notice for the businesses and the funds were not in their budgets so they are withdrawing the request.

E. Approval – Extension of Cushing Financial Support for Police Officer

Mr. Briggs stated that the Memorandum of Understanding is a rolling agreement from Cushing. He stated that they have committed to support 100% of the cost for one police officer. He noted that this agreement is effective until June 30, 2017. ***Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the MOU and was seconded by Nick Davis. Motion carried.***

VII TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Briggs stated that they are working with all the departments to be sure that the FY14 budget is closed without any issues. He also noted that the tax bills will be going out next week.

He stated that the bid opening for the Water Line Replacement Project was on June 5th, with 8 bidders. He stated that the low bidder was Cedrone Corp. out of North Billerica at \$1,289,409.70, which is a little under the projected cost. He added that the project is due to start in the last week of June.

Mr. Briggs stated that he was starting negotiations with the new Fire Union and their first meeting is set for Wednesday, June 25th.

He also noted that there would be a Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Monday, June 23rd to approve the temporary borrowing for the Water Line Replacement Project.

Doug Briggs stated that Attorney Bill Solomon, who is representing both Westminster and Ashburnham in the Cable Licensing process, contacted him regarding a meeting on Wednesday, June 18th regarding the Cable contract. He stated that it would be held at the Westminster Town Hall, Room 205 at 7:00 p.m.

He also noted that they have been trying to get volunteers to serve on the Cable Advisory Board for the past year and that they still need five members.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 19, 2014 Minutes – Regular Meeting

B. June 2, 2014 Minutes – Regular Meeting

Leo Janssens noted that Duncan Phyfe was not present for the May 19th meeting. **Nick Davis motioned to approve the May 19, 2014 minutes and Leo Janssens seconded. Motion carried.**

Leo Janssens then noted that Nick Davis was not present for the June 2nd meeting. **Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the June 2, 2014 minutes and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.**

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE None

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

- Thursday, June 19 – 7:00 p.m. – 250th Committee – Stevens Library
- Thursday, June 26 - 6:30 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.
- 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.

Please note: The Town Hall will be closed on Thursday, July 3rd in observance of the 4th of July holiday which is Friday.

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday, July 21, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building. Please note that the Board of Selectmen will meet once only in the months of July and August, July 21 and August 18.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit)

Pixie Brennan inquired as to the total cost of the demolition of the VMS building. Mr. Briggs stated that he would get the exact number for the next meeting.

Meredith Fagan had two issues. She stated that she wanted some clarification on business signs and why they had to remove the signs/banners from the building, as the bylaws allow you to have signs.

She also asked why the Board of Selectmen meetings haven't been live. Mr. Briggs stated that it was due to technical issues.

Mr. Briggs stated that Ms. Fagan should contact the Land Use office and speak to either Mary Ellen or the Building Commissioner, Dick Reynolds regarding the signs.

Bill Johnson asked if the funeral home project was dead at this point. Mr. Briggs stated that he spoke with the Conservation Commission and they were satisfied. He noted that he would check on the status of this project.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

***At 7:05 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