

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 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, Duncan Phyfe, Member, Doug Briggs, Town Administrator and Sylvia Turcotte, Assistant to the Town Administrator. Nick Davis 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)

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the agenda as presented and Leo Janssens seconded. Motion carried.

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of Memorial Day Services

Leo Janssens noted that as always, the DPW along with Ed Schlott did a great job to prepare for the Memorial Day services. Duncan Phyfe stated that everything looked really nice and that the new route went very well. It was noted that there were no complaints.

B. Responses to inquiries from last meeting

Doug Briggs read the response from Chief Barrett on the Cushing patrols at New Cemetery. "Chief Barrett stated the following: Cushing has always patrolled New Cemetery and even more now that they have a private security company. There have been problems with vandalism and underage drinking in that cemetery and they also have a residence at the end of Old Nims Road that they monitor. Cushing has no authority to deal with any criminal activity and would contact the police department to handle any issues of that nature. We have actually had a very good working relationship with them and haven't found any issues of concern with any of their employees. I would certainly question the harassment concern, maybe excessive patrols because they have a small area to patrol, but I wouldn't want to limit them. They are extra eyes out there for us."

Mr. Briggs also noted that the lunches at Cushing were approved prior to this inquiry, back in 2012 with the ethics board.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Discussion and vote on appointment of Library Trustees

Leo Janssens stated that there was a vacancy on the Library Trustees Board and that they need to have a joint meeting with them to appoint the Trustee. He noted that they would schedule a joint meeting with the Trustees at their next meeting on June 16th. He also noted that they presently have two resumes to review. It was also stated that Duncan Phyfe would be meeting with the Trustees on June 3rd.

B. Request for Special Liquor License

Leo Janssens stated that the Ashburnham Conservation Trust would like a Wine Only One-Day Liquor License for Saturday, June 28th from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Downtown Day activities on Memorial Drive. Duncan Phyfe stated he had some concerns as there will be many kids at this event and how would

they keep control. Leo Janssens stated that he spoke with Gary Howland and was told that they would have a tent with a curtain for the wine tasting. ***Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the special liquor license as requested with the wine tasting taking place behind the curtain in the tent and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.***

VII TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE

Mr. Briggs stated that he would ask the Board to sign the year-end inter-departmental transfers and noted that there were four lines as follows:

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|------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. From AWRSD to Snow & Ice wages | \$124,075 | Was a difficult winter. |
| 2. From AWRSD to Legal Services | \$ 15,000 | Unanticipated legal fees. |
| 3. From AWRSD to Fire Overtime | \$ 15,000 | Coverage for Salo due to retirement. |
| 4. From AWRSD to Veterans Benefits | \$ 8,000 | Benefits continue to increase. |

He noted that all the monies were transferred from the Ashburnham-Westminster Regional School Account which became available through a reduced assessment due to the school's Free Cash or Excess & Deficiency account exceeding the 5% of budget the State allows. He stated that the Advisory Board would be meeting on Monday, June 9th to review and approve. ***Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the inter-departmental transfers as presented and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.***

Mr. Briggs also added that he would be meeting with his finance team on June 4th to set up the FY15 financial calendar and to close FY14.

Doug Briggs noted some good news from the Senate FY15 vote, stating that they increased the funding for Regional School Transportation to 90%. He added that if this survives the rest of the budget process it could mean substantial total reductions in our assessment from Monty Tech and AWRSD. He stated it could mean around \$200,000 for us between both schools.

He noted that with our new website configuration residents will be able to Subscribe to News with the new link which would allow them to get information on meetings, agendas, minutes and more which would be sent to their email when posted.

Mr. Briggs stated that the paving of Route 12 by the State will be done today and they are finishing the striping. He noted that they did a nice job.

He stated that the New Cemetery entrance is beautiful and he wanted to thank the DPW and Cushing Academy for all their efforts and assistance on this project. The reuse of the VMS flag pole at the rotary is very fitting and the view is beautiful.

He noted that the Water Line Project is going forward. He stated that the pre-bid meeting was held on the 29th of May and the opening is on June 5th with the projected start at the end of June and this is on an accelerated basis. He added that it looks like it should be completed the early part of November.

Doug Briggs stated that at the last meeting a Board member raised a concern about a stop sign at Chapel Street and Route 101N. He stated that the stop sign has been replaced at Chapel Street and Route 101N. He noted that they will get estimates for the design and construction of the intersection of Routes 12 and 101N and the state will also be solicited to move their road sign to a new location. He also noted that he had the Police Department do a traffic analysis of the intersection and he was told there were only two accidents in 15 years that occurred there. He also added that they will need to discuss this as it's a difficult fix and could be costly.

He stated that the organizers of Downtown Day on June 28th have requested that Main Street be closed from Pleasant Street to Center Street from at least 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. He stated that he informed them that the cost would be \$600 to be paid by them. He noted that he had not heard back from them as of today.

Mr. Briggs stated that Fire Union negotiations have started and he was meeting with them at the end of June.

He noted that the Pharmacy robbery investigation was done extremely well. He recognized officers Les Holgerson, Kevin Kaddy, John Boucher and Robert Jaillet of the Ashburnham Police Department along with Ralph LaBlanc of the Westminster Police Department and State Troopers Todd Girouard and David Napolitano. Also Ashburnham Detective Rob Siano worked tirelessly along with State Trooper Napolitano on the case. He noted it was done quickly and kudos to all involved.

He noted that he gave the list of his appointments to the Board for their information.

He stated that he met with Marshall Dennis, Jamie Rheault, and Nick Davis to discuss the proposal for a joint application to the Conservation Commission to remediate a wetlands condition on the Meissner's property. He noted that Marshall Dennis had some concerns.

Mr. Briggs stated that he read a report about evaluations of homes in Ashburnham and from 2012 to 2014 the evaluations went down by 5%. He added that Westminster went down only 3½% and that these are important statistics.

He also noted that today he received a letter that the Nashua River Watershed wrote to Martha Coakley stating that they were against the pipeline project going through conservation land and it was sent on behalf of many surrounding communities.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 19, 2014 Minutes – Regular Meeting

Leo Janssens stated that due to the absence of Nick Davis at this meeting and the absence of Duncan Phye at the May 19th meeting, they would wait to approve the minutes until the next meeting on June 16th.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

X. JUNE MEETINGS and EVENTS – Leo Janssens read the meetings and events as follows:

- Tuesday, June 3 – 4:00 p.m. – Library Trustees – Stevens Library
- Tuesday, June 10 - 6:00 p.m. – Water/Sewer Commission – Lower Level at Town Hall
- Wednesday, June 11 – 5:00 p.m. – Board of Assessors – Assessors' office at Town Hall

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leo Janssens 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.

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday, June 16, 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)

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

***At 6:55 p. m. Duncan Phyfe motioned to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Leo Janssens.
Motion carried.***

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte
Assistant to the Town Administrator