
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 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 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 minutes limit) None

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

A. Overlook Middle School Renovation Discussion (Supt. Ralph Hicks)

Leo Janssens stated that Supt. Hicks was present to give them a summary of what has been proposed for the Overlook Middle School renovation. Mr. Hicks stated that they have written four statements of interest to USDA and because the school was built in 1997 they turned them down. He stated that the biggest problems are the roof and the boiler. He stated that the boiler is inefficient and pollutes. He noted that there is a grant opportunity for pellet boilers and he has already written the feasibility study. Mr. Hicks stated that the bottom-line is they will be applying for a \$350k grant to purchase two small pellet boilers. He noted that they would keep the two oil boilers there to be used intermittently. He stated that the cost of the project would be \$514k to put in a small addition, 15'x40', for the boilers and silo for the pellets. He also noted that there is no problem getting pellets for Briggs and it should be the same for Overlook.

Mr. Hicks noted that they would like to do this as soon as possible as it will save money and the life of the grant is until 9/30/15 both fall and spring. He added that they are in front of the line right now because we have it at Briggs. Mr. Hicks went on to say that in five years the oil burners will need to be replaced so this is the time to strike. He stated that if we get the full grant it would take about 2.2 years to pay back. He added that it is estimated that the cost may not include the two 190 gallon water tanks. He stated that he will be recommending to the School Committee to go forward with this.

Leo Janssens stated that the cost of the project is \$550k, with the \$350k grant, and each town would pay \$100k. Mr. Hicks stated that the money saved would help pay back the towns. Mr. Janssens asked about service and Mr. Hicks stated that they have a technician for Briggs from

Rhode Island. Mr. Janssens asked if the boiler goes down, how long would it take to get the tech and Mr. Hicks stated that 2 or 3 hours in the day and if overnight, the next morning. He also noted that there would be less carbon with pellets. Duncan Phyfe asked if the silo would be the same size silo as Briggs and Mr. Hicks responded that it would be. He did note that there was one issue early on with the silo at Briggs but there hasn't been any problems since. He also noted that they could take the oil tanks in the ground out eventually and use some smaller ones.

The Board thanked Supt. Hicks for this information.

V. OLD BUSINESS

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Vote to revoke Liquor License

Leo Janssens stated that the Board needs to vote to revoke the liquor license for the Wright Place Pub in order to allow the new owner to apply for a license. ***Duncan Phyfe made the motion to revoke the license and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.***

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Briggs noted that the older oil tank in Town Hall is weeping and needs to be replaced but is too large to fit out the door. He stated that it will be drained and taken apart and then replaced by a 240 gallon tank. He added that this would be done by Roy Bros.

He stated that the Parks & Rec Committee needs two voting members.

He also stated that he has notified the Planning Board, per the request of the Board of Selectmen, to review the signage bylaws and that any changes will be presented at the Annual Town Meeting.

He noted that interviews have been ongoing by the State's IG and AG offices regarding the Library investigation. He added that they are hoping for a resolution soon.

Mr. Briggs stated that he has been approached by one of the residents who is very much involved with the anti-pipeline issue and she stated that he should be more involved and take the reins on this movement as the legislators have not responded to the letters sent by the Selectmen. He asked the Board for their input. Leo Janssens stated that he should contact the Town Administrators in Pepperell and Groton as to what they are doing about the pipeline situation and then update the Selectmen.

He noted that the connections are now at the top of Williams Road with all connections made in the Water Line Replacement Project. He stated that we will also be replacing the Asbestos Cement (AC) pipe on Turnpike Road which runs about 800 feet up from Williams and the USDA has allowed us to do this. He also noted that a lot of old lines have been leaking for a long time and with these new lines the daily flow has decreased along with a decrease in processing costs. He added that it could also mean that we may see a decrease in sewer processing as well. Leo Janssens asked if the overall cost might be affected and Mr. Briggs stated that the total will be less but fixed costs will stay the same.

Mr. Briggs stated that MRPC did a traffic count, taken over several days, on Pleasant Street but that he had not received the readings yet.

He stated that he is working with Mark Carlisle and Mike Rivers gathering information for an application to the State for Green Energy status. He also stated that he has submitted for a \$12,500 grant to do a level two audit of town buildings. He stated that Ashburnham is number one in the state for alternate energy sources and that now that we are dependent on natural gas, the electrical rates may increase.

Mr. Briggs stated that he held a Department Head meeting on Tuesday and the updates were sent to the Selectmen.

He stated that he would also check on the Green Community grant to see if it can be of any help with the Overlook School renovation.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. August 18, 2014 Minutes – Regular Meeting

Duncan Phyfe motioned to approve the minutes from the August 18, 2014 Regular Meeting and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

X. SEPTEMBER MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- Monday, September 8th @7:00 p.m. – Advisory Board – Training Rm. Public Safety Bldg.
- Tuesday, September 9th @6:00 p.m. – Water/Sewer Comm. – Lower Level Rm. Town Hall
- Wednesday, September 19th @ 5:00 p.m. – Bd. of Assessors – Their office Town Hall

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 fines of \$25.00 per dog will be mailed soon to all those who have not yet licensed their dogs. This fine is in addition to the licensing fee with late fee. Please call the Town Clerk's office at 978-827-4100 Ext. 3 if you have any questions.
- Monday, September 8th until 12:00 noon – last day to file applications for absentee ballots for voters who will be out of town for the State Primary.
- Tuesday, September 9th – STATE PRIMARY – Polls open at 7:00 a.m. and close at 8:00 p.m. at the J.R. Briggs Elementary School Gym, 96 Williams Road.

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday, September 15, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit)

Jessica Caouette, of 13 Williams Road, stated that she had some questions regarding sidewalks, like what is the process to put new sidewalks in or replace the old ones. She stated that she was interested in a sidewalk from Briggs towards the Light Department. Mr. Briggs stated that it was determined during the construction of the new Briggs school not to put a sidewalk.

Mr. Briggs stated that it was determined that the sidewalk was unsafe on South Main Street and that is why it is being replaced. Leo Janssens stated that once Williams Road is paved next year, they should keep sidewalks in mind and also ask Chief Barrett to direct patrols in that area along with radar trailers in order to prevent speeding on the newly paved road.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte
Assistant to the Town Administrator