

APPROVED
NOVEMBER 2, 2015

Board of Selectmen Meeting
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.
TRAINING ROOM – PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

This meeting was aired live and taped for local television.

PRESENT: Duncan Phyfe, Chair, Leo Janssens II, Member, Kyle Johnson, Clerk, Douglas Briggs, Town Administrator, and absent was Sylvia Turcotte, Executive Assistant.

I. SALUTE THE FLAG

Duncan Phyfe called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT None

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Leo Janssens motioned to approve the agenda as presented and was seconded by Kyle Johnson. Motion carried.

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS- None

A. Liquor License Hearing – Sawa Yaka, LLC (6:35 p.m.)

Mr. Janssens II made the motion to open the hearing which was seconded by Mr. Johnson. Motion carried.

Sawa Yaka, LLC is applying for a Beer and Wine Restaurant License at 57 Main Street. Mr. Siwei Huang its manager was present representing the company.

Mr. Phyfe welcomed Mr. Huang who gave a brief explanation about his business and their request for the license.

Mr. Johnson asked about seating capacity and hours of operation and Mr. Huang stated that there was seating for approximately 20 seats and the hours of operation would be from 12:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

There was no one present to speak in favor or opposition to the license.

Mr. Huang summarized his request and stated that all his employees will be TIPS certified and documentation would be given to the town.

Leo Janssens II made a motion to close the hearing Kyle Johnson seconded; motion carried.

Leo Janssens II made the motion to approve the liquor license for Sawa Yaka, LLC Kyle Johnson seconded, motion carried.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Discussion on the Ashburnham Westminster Regional School Agreement warrant article

Chairman Phyfe reported that he had met with Supt. Dr. Mazzola and Chairman Christianson from the District and Chairman Fairbanks from Westminster Board of Selectmen. It was determined that there was a break in communications from the March 31st and August 4th meetings as several of the requests from Westminster and Ashburnham had not been either presented or reviewed. The group decided that it would be best to pass over at the STM.

After discussion, Chairman Phyfe is going to request of the District to vote to pass over the article at the October 27th STM and that Mr. Phyfe will setup a meeting between the chairman of the BOS and Advisory Bd. from both towns to initiate discussion and to generate a proposal that can then be presented to the school district.

B. Review of 250th "Paint Ashburnham", Mt. Watatic Hike, and Oktoberfest events

Selectman Johnson reported that he had attended both the "Paint Ashburnham" and the Ocktober Fest. He said both were well attended and was surprised at the high level of quality of our local artists. At the Ocktober Fest there was discussion about how this and the bonfire should become yearly events.

C. Further discussion – North Country Sustainability Center

Selectman Johnson asked about the total amount owed to the town and summarized that there was no opportunity to receive the funds.

Kyle Johnson made the motion to vacate the debt owed to the town by North Country Sustainability Center; Mr. Janssens II seconded motion carried.

D. USDA Loan Requirement – Right of Way Certificate

Kyle Johnson made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the "Right of Way" Certificate for the USDA loan, Leo Janssens II seconded, motion carried.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Possible application for license to operate Registered Marijuana Dispensary

After receiving a request for support from the Town Administrator for the Milford Medicinals installation and operation of a Registered Marijuana Dispensary (RMD) in the Town of Ashburnham it was requested that the Board weigh in. Michael Dundas Chief Executive Officer of Milford Medicinal, Inc. was in attendance to answer any questions.

Mr. Janssens asked "why Ashburnham?" and Mr. Dundas responded that he would ask why not, residents have overwhelmingly supported the idea and there is a need in this area for the service. Kelly Hansen a resident in attendance asked what was in it for Ashburnham. Mr. Dundas stated that although they were a nonprofit that 10 to 15 people would be employed and there would be an educational partnership. Ms.

Hansen followed with questions of security where Mr. Dundas stated that there would be no physical presence of officers, but through cameras and security checks it would be governed and that only people with medical prescriptions would be allowed to enter. Mr. Johnson asked about the time frame and service area to which Mr. Dundas stated that once approvals are in place it would only be 4 to 6 months and that the service area is approximately 15-20 radial miles.

Mr. Janssens II then stated that he realized that they couldn't stop them, but would feel better if the Board issued a letter of non-opposition. After further discussion ***Mr. Johnson made a motion that a letter of approval be sent that was seconded by Mr. Phyfe and the motion carried 2 to 1 with Mr. Janssens II in opposition.***

B. Discussion on which Selectman will speak at the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 11th

Mr. Phyfe will represent the board, but Mr. Johnson will check his schedule by Wednesday to see if he is available.

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE – Mr. Briggs reported:

MONTY TECH

Received change in Assessment from Monty Tech a DECREASE of \$1,279. The decrease was due to the net increase of CH70 School (\$7,430) and CH 71 transportation (\$9,333) aid pro-rated for Ashburnham.

DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

MassDOT has scheduled a Design Public Hearing for Monday, October 26th at 6:30 p.m. on the Williams Road, Corey Hill, and the Route 101 intersection. This Public Hearing will take place in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Warrant was posted on Tuesday October 13, 2015 for the Special Town Meeting to be held at Oakmont, in the auditorium, on the 27th of October, and there are 7 articles on the warrant.

WATER AND SEWER

I met with the Water and Sewer Commissioners on October 13th. They voted to leave the water rate alone, but increase the sewer rate from \$12.00 to \$13.25 per hundred cubic foot (Hcuft), short of the \$13.75 I requested. This was needed due to the 10% rate increase from Gardner. There is going to be a substantial shift in allocation of sewer revenues over the next four years. Gardner is increasing the rate we pay over the next three years on an average of six percent. The sewer loan is not due to expire until August of 2018, yet the sewer assessments will be completed this fiscal year. That means that as the yearly assessment goes away it will be replaced by a substantial rate increase until the debt is paid off.

TAVERN ON CENTRAL

The Board executed the final liquor permit for Tavern on Central.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 5, 2015 - Minutes – Joint Meeting with Advisory Board

Leo Janssens II made a motion to accept the minutes of October 5, 2015, Kyle Johnson seconded motion carried.

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE- None

X. OCTOBER MEETINGS and ANNOUNCEMENTS- Mr. Johnson read the following:

- Tuesday, 10/20 @ 4:00 p.m. – Library Trustees – Stevens Memorial Library
- Wednesday, 10/21 @ 6:30 p.m.– Light Board – Municipal Light Building
- Thursday, 10/22 @6:30 p.m.– Planning Board – Lower Level Room at Town Hall
- Monday, 10/26 @ 6:30 p.m. – PUBLIC HEARING – Rt. 101 Intersection – Training Room at PSB
- Tuesday, 10/27 @ 6:30 p.m. – Joint Meeting BOS, Adv. Bd., and Cap. Plan. Comm. – Auditorium at Oakmont Regional High School
- Tuesday, 10/27 @ 7:00 p.m. – SPECIAL TOWN MEETING – Auditorium at Oakmont Regional High School

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.
- October 27, 2015 – Tuesday – Special Town Meeting at 7:00 p.m. at Oakmont Regional High School Auditorium, 9 Oakmont Drive.
- The dog fines of \$50 were sent out in September to those who have not licensed their dog(s). Licensing of dogs and payment of the violations were due October 15th. Next complaint applications will be filed at Winchendon District Court for those who have not complied with the Town Bylaw requiring that their dogs be licensed.

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday, November 2, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

XI. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit)- None

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION- None

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:13 p.m. Leo Janssens II motioned to adjourn the meeting, Kyle Johnson seconded; motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted

Douglas Briggs

Town Administrator