
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2015 – 6:30 P.M.
TRAINING ROOM AT PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

This meeting was aired live and taped for local television.

PRESENT: Duncan Phyfe, Chair, Leo Janssens II, Member, Kyle Johnson, Clerk, Doug Briggs, Town Administrator, and 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 (5 minutes limit)

Duncan Phyfe introduced Tyler Wolanin, District Director, from the Office of Senator Anne Gobi. Mr. Wolanin stated that he would be holding office hours in Ashburnham on Wednesday, May 27th from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Town Hall and he would invite any town official or constituent to come forward with any concerns they may have.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

A. Public Hearing – Liquor License – The Tavern on Central

Kyle Johnson made the motion to open the hearing and Leo Janssens seconded. Motion carried. Sean McNally was present as well as Rich Wright, building owner. Sean McNally stated that the restaurant in Ashburnham would be his third operation of this kind and that this restaurant would be more family style. He stated that Monday through Friday, lunch would be served from 11:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. and dinner to closing which he stated would be at 1:00 a.m. He also noted that they would be open for breakfast on Saturday and Sunday from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

There were no persons present who were in favor or against the license.

Mr. McNally, as a closing statement, said that he would be working in an effort to do things right. He also noted that the sign that is there now would be taken down and a new one placed directly on the building.

Mr. Phyfe asked for a motion to close the hearing. ***Kyle Johnson motioned to close the hearing and was seconded by Leo Janssens. Motion carried.***

A motion was made by Kyle Johnson to approve the liquor license for The Tavern on Central and Leo Janssens seconded. Motion carried. Mr. McNally thanked the Board.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Review of the Annual Town Meeting held on Tuesday, May 5, 2015

Kyle Johnson stated that he was impressed with the attendance and that the presentation by Joe Oliveira set the tone. Leo Janssens agreed and stated that he was pleased that there were no issues. Duncan Phye noted that the presentation went a long way to alleviate questions. Doug Briggs stated that he had never been to a meeting where it went so smoothly and so quickly.

B. Review of the “Music on the Green” event – Sunday, May 17th

Kyle Johnson stated that he was not able to attend but noted that it went very well and was a “labor of love” of the 250th Committee. Doug Briggs added that there were over 100 people who attended and that he heard it was a good time.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Approval of FY16 Appointments

Leo Janssens made the motion to approve the list of appointments as listed and was seconded by Kyle Johnson. Motion carried.

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Mr. Briggs began by stating that Crosby, Pillsbury and Marble Roads are complete and the crew is working to finish the driveway approaches and backfill edges of the road. Kyle Johnson noted that he drove down Crosby and it was great. Mr. Briggs noted that the binder coat is down on Williams Road and due to scheduling conflicts of the paving companies the top coat won’t be done until the beginning of June. He noted that they are now working to get Holden St., South Maple Ave., and Turnpike Rd. completed in June and that they have scheduled the summer work of River Styx Rd. and Russell Hill Rd. He added that they are ahead of the curve to get the roads done.

Mr. Briggs stated that he met with the Water/Sewer Commissioners on May 12th to discuss transitioning back to the Board of Selectmen as commissioners. He noted that they were okay with this especially with the staff currently working at the DPW. Mr. Briggs stated that the transition would be next year as the Board would make 1 year appointments for those up for re-appointment now and the whole process would be completed next year. He added that all projects have been completed by the DPW Superintendent and the only remaining project is the Sewer Agreement with the City of Gardner which would need to be done in the next year. When asked by Leo Janssens about a learning curve for the Selectmen, Mr. Briggs responded that the system is all identified now with no big heavy lifting involved with the DPW it will work well.

Doug Briggs noted that he has started working on the DPW and Police union contracts with the first meeting with the Police on May 26th. He added that his goal is to get all unions in the same cycle and that he doesn’t anticipate many meetings.

Mr. Briggs stated that we have had definite communication from many sources that our approval will be scheduled for the MSBA Meeting of June 3rd. He noted that the value of this reimbursement is \$532,373 and that the School District has \$31,000 of bills to be taken out of this amount but that the remainder is ours. He added that the Town needs this money in June or a Special Town Meeting may have to be held.

He stated that Guardian Information Technologies has started the installation of a T1 line for our phone system which will interconnect all town buildings and will allow for enhanced capabilities and eliminate many phone lines. He noted that the Public Safety Building will be the center of operations, not the Town Hall. He also noted that there is an interest by the Light Department to continue this line and tie in with us.

Mr. Briggs stated that there is a scheduled meeting on June 3rd with the DEP to review our unaccounted for water. He noted that we have also filed a waiver for the MS4 storm water with the state and the federal level as well. He explained why this had to be done.

He stated that he would like the Board to consider putting together a committee similar to the one we had before to focus on the center of town to incorporate the current DPW site. He stated that the last committee formed in 2001 came to a crossroad when they could not find a proper location for the DPW but now we have the site and need to develop a plan. Kyle Johnson stated that there isn't much left in the center other than the DPW site which is 5 acres. He noted that it was a great idea to form a committee. He asked what we wanted to see there. Leo Janssens stated that we should go to the original members for their input and ask them if they would be willing to serve again. Duncan Phyfe stated that we should have a list of the original members for the next meeting. Leo Janssens added that that we also need new people on this committee and we should check with Bob Fichtel.

He stated that the Library Trustees were requesting that the Board of Selectmen review the possibility of making Memorial Drive at the beginning by the liquor store a two-way street. He noted that after meeting with Steve Nims, Larry Barrett and Paul Rekos, they were not in favor. The Trustees now want to re-think this request.

VIII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. May 4, 2015 Minutes – Regular Meeting ***Leo Janssens motioned to approve the minutes of April 6, 2015 and was seconded by Kyle Johnson. Motion carried.***

IX. BOS CORRESPONDENCE

Kyle Johnson stated that the Board received an invitation to the Monty Tech graduation ceremony on Wednesday, May 27th at 6:00 p.m. He added that it's important to attend these functions.

X. MAY MEETINGS AND EVENTS – Kyle Johnson read the following:

- Monday, May 25 – Memorial Day Holiday

Mr. Johnson then proceeded to read the schedule of events for the Memorial Day Services and encouraged everyone to participate.

XI. ANNOUNCEMENTS – Kyle Johnson read the following:

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 now available at the Town Clerk’s office. Fees are \$10.00 for altered dogs and \$15.00 for unaltered dogs. Please bring in current rabies certificate. If licensing by mail, please include check, rabies certificate and a self-addressed envelope and mail to Town Clerk’s Office, 32 Main Street, Ashburnham. Also, online payments can be made for dog licenses RENEWALS ONLY. Please call the Town Clerk’s office FIRST at 978-827-4100 ext. 3 to verify that a valid rabies certificate is on file, complete the information online and the dog license will be mailed.

Senator Anne Gobi’s Legislative Aide, Tyler Wolanin, will hold office hours on Wednesday, May 27th at 11:30 a.m. in the Center Room at the Town Hall.

The next scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting will be held on Monday, May 18, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. in the Training Room at the Public Safety Building.

XII. SOLICIT PUBLIC INPUT (5 minute limit)

Joe Benavidez of the Gardner News asked if a decision had been made yet on the Animal Control Agreement and Mr. Briggs stated that no decision had been made.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,
Sylvia Turcotte
Executive Assistant