



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMAN MINUTES January 20, 2016 – 7:00 PM Town Hall

Call Meeting to Order

Joe Magnani called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Present at the meeting were Chair Joe Magnani, Vice-Chair Steve Mitchell, Yolanda Greaves, Rob Scherer, Carl Hakansson and Town Manager Michael Herbert.

Joe Magnani announced that the meeting is being taped and broadcast live on WACA.

Joe Magnani and Nora Herbert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen's Participation

Bob Andrews, 408 Eliot Street, representing Hanto restaurant explained that sound proofing materials have been ordered and once installed Raymond Jiang would like to run a test with a live band to be sure the improvements take care of the noise problem.

Joe Magnani requested that all the neighbors are notified prior to when the test takes place.

Yolanda Greaves asked when the test is planned. Raymond Jiang responded is January 30th.

Janet Platt, 11 Rodman Road, requested information on the vote taken with respect to Robert Hill Way. Michael Herbert and Joe Magnani explained that the vote was to protect the town's interests, and there is information that cannot be shared because of litigation involving the town and with respect to executive session privilege.

Julie Nardone, 86 Eliot Street, congratulated Michael Herbert on his appointment. Ms. Nardone questioned the mortgage documents for Robert Hill Way and would like to know what law allows that to happen.

Michael Herbert explained that the Middlesex Registry of Deeds would not allow the town to record a document that is not legal.

Jim Hanna, Eliot Street, explained that it was 2002 when this purchase began and the process has had many deadlines that have come and gone and he is not sure that the transaction was done correctly.

Rob Scherer explained that he did not support the project on merit but he does not think executive session keeps the Board from discussing the merits of the agreement.

Mark Dassoni asked for a general description of the Robert Hill Way project, which Joe Magnani explained that it is an affordable senior housing project.

Mark Dassoni also explained that he met with Beth Reynolds and discussed Economic Development.

Scheduled Appointments

Appointment of the Town Manager

Joe Magnani announced that the Board of Selectmen is appointing Michael Herbert as Town Manager.

Michael Herbert thanked the Board for their support and confidence that they have shown him and he is excited about the opportunity.

Steve Mitchell made a motion to appoint Michael Herbert to Town Manager subject to successful contract negotiations. This motion was seconded by Carl Hakansson with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Warren Woods Ad hoc Expansion

Michael Herbert explained that a request to expand the Warren Woods Ad hoc Committee was received. Carl Hakansson explained that the Committee and its charge have been increased. The Historical Commission will forward their recommendation and it can be acted on at a future meeting.

Steve Mitchell made a motion to appoint Carl Hakansson from the Conservation Commission, Tricia Kendall from the Sustainability Committee, and Greg Wands from Open Space and Recreation to the Warren Woods Ad hoc Committee with terms to expire August 31, 2016. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves with a vote of 4-0-1 (Hakansson).

Ashland Cultural Council

Steve Mitchell made a motion to reappoint Rajashree Gosh to the Ashland Cultural Council with a term that will expire on February 6, 2019. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Acceptance of Minutes

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to accept the minutes of November 4, 2015 and November 18 2015. This motion was seconded by Rob Scherer with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Town Manager Appointments

Director of Community Development and Health

Michael Herbert explained to the Board of Selectmen that he is appointing Nat Strosberg as the Director of Community Development and Health and waive the 15-day waiting period.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to appoint Nat Strosberg as Director of Community Development and Health and waive the 15-day waiting period with regards to this appointment. This motion was seconded by Steve Mitchell with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

National Community Survey

Michael Herbert explained that the survey has been discussed at several retreats and he is requesting a budget of approximately \$15,000 to develop a proposal for the use of the tool for the Board's consideration. The Board will discuss this item at the next meeting.

Visual Budget

Michael Herbert reported Visual Budget will go live on February 1st.

New Redesigned Website

Michael Herbert reported that the new website offers many changes and the enhancements will be a great improvement.

Old / New Business

Approval of Note Sale

Michael Herbert explained that the town has short-term debt in the form of notes that need to be approved. Paul Keating, Treasurer/Collector explained that the notes total \$2.94 million and long-term borrowing will be completed in the fall.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to accept and sign the bands as presented. This motion was seconded by Rob Scherer with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Riverwalk Project Support

Joe Magnani read a letter and explained that the Board is being asked to write a letter of support that would allow this group to apply for grants. The application for the grant is due by February 3, 2016. The Board requested additional information to base their support, and if possible to have representatives from Open Space attend the meeting on Monday to discuss this topic.

Notice of Vacancy – Board of Assessors

Michael Herbert explained that there is a vacancy on the Board of Assessors and the Board is soliciting Talent Bank forms for those interested in serving in this capacity. This appointment would be until the next election.

Acceptance of Gift – Ashland Community Center

Joe Magnani explained that the Ashland Community Center received a gift card from Dr. Armond Enos.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to accept the gift card in the amount of \$100.00 from Dr. Armond Enos to the Community Center. This motion was seconded by Steve Mitchell with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Charity Bin Regulations

Board members reviewed the policy and discussed a few minor changes and would like town counsel to review the document.

Designer Selection Criteria

Michael Herbert explained that the Board of Selectmen and the School Committee have worked on the building design criteria and the approved bidding process. This topic will be discussed at the February 3rd meeting.

Ratification of Collective Bargaining Agreements – Police Dept. and DPW

Michael Herbert explained that this announcement is to notify the community that the Board of Selectmen ratified contracts for the DPW and Police Dept., effective July 1st for a three year period.

Community Preservation Committee Membership

Joe Magnani read a letter regarding the vacant seat on the CPC.

Beth Rosenblum explained that the CPC met recently and discussed its membership options. The CPC public hearing will be held at the Town Hall on Tuesday February 2nd at 6:45PM.

Ms. Rosenblum congratulated Michael Herbert on his new role and also asked for a timeline for when Warrant Articles are due.

Town Manager's Contract

Joe Magnani explained that the Board is discussing a contract with the Town Manager and hopefully will have a contract to approve at the February 3rd meeting.

Override Discussion and Potential Vote

Michael Herbert explained that after the discussion at last night's Selectmen Workshop to discuss the recommendation offered by the Override Study Committee, he was tasked with coming up with additional options and one suggestion is the creation of a Special Purpose Stabilization Fund. Michael Herbert reviewed and explained the options. Michael Herbert mentioned that creating a special fund

would be a temporary increase and the Common Method, which is a permanent tax levy. In both cases appropriation would take a 2/3 Town Meeting Vote.

Collectively Board members would like the members of the Override Study Committee to review the Board's comments and provide additional proposals.

The Board will continue the discussion and take a vote at the February 3, 2016 meeting.

Board Reports

Carl Hakansson

Carl thanked everyone who participated in the Downtown Summit and he heard great things from those that attended.

Carl mentioned that the Board stopped reading its vision statement.

Rob Scherer

Rob is a member of the Upper Charles Rail Trail Committee and explained that there have been concerns raised by residents at the Village of Americas.

Rob explained that he met with Beth Reynolds and they reviewed the Anderson Economic Development report. Rob explained that Beth is working on many projects and looks forward to her monthly reports.

Yolanda Greaves

Yolanda attended the Safe Routes to School meeting and she said that the state will be coming out to assess the streets and sidewalks around the Mendes School in the spring.

Yolanda is attending the Mass Municipal Association Conference this weekend.

Yolanda announced that she is running for the 7th Middlesex State Representative seat.

Steve Mitchell

Steve attended the Downtown Summit and thought it was a great meeting and he felt that a lot of good conversation was had.

Joe Magnani

Joe thanked everyone for their continued and collective actions.

Joe stated that John Leacu passed away today and he wishes his family his condolences.

Adjournment

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to adjourn. This motion was seconded by Steve Mitchell with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.