



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMAN MINUTES April 6, 2016 – 7:00 PM Town Hall

Vision Statement – *The Town of Ashland will be a prosperous and fiscal sound community with a full range of housing, business, cultural, educational and recreational opportunities in a safe and attractive environment for residents and visitors.*

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 was being taped and broadcast live on WACA.

Joe Magnani led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Citizen's Participation

George Dorsey, 37 Captain Ames Circle, state that he would like to express his displeasure regarding the posted no parking signs that have been placed along Chestnut Street. Board members explained that there is a Traffic Study Committee that they will relay this message to.

Denise Schwerzler, 4 Lakeview Terrace, is looking for support for the Animal Control Officer and rangers who will enforce the dog leash law. Joe explained that he was advised today that the environmental police were in the area today advising people that did not have their dogs on a leash of the law.

Mark Schwerzler, 4 Lakeview Terrace, expressed concern with the vehicle parking along Spring Street. He explained with the warm weather approaching he would like to draw attention to the issue before an accident happens and asked for more ticketing and towing in the area.

Judy Margulies, America Blvd., thanked the Board of Selectmen for putting on the agenda tonight the appointment of the open seat on the Board of Health.

Scheduled Appointments

Legal Update

Lisa Mead, Town Counsel, updated the Board on the status of the items that town counsel have been working on since the last update; Ameresco funding issue, the conservation commission encroachment issues at Warren Woods, litigation with Fusion v. the Town of Ashland, RTD development agreement, Fafard sewer easement, Robert Hill Way low income tax credit, Spinnazola v. the Town of Ashland, 133 W. Union St., Open Meeting Law complaints, D&D Mulch settlement, Winter St. bridge project, water band enforcement, Town Meeting warrant articles, Cadillac Paint property, 466 Chestnut St. land donation to the Conservation Commission, and town acquisition of the Girl Scout property.

CPC Warrant Article Review

Beth Rosenblum explained the CPC warrant articles and she outlined which articles are combined into one consent articles and how the funding is determined.

Municipal Aggregation Update

Michael Herbert explained that the town recently signed a contract with Verde Energy USA to enter into a municipal electrical aggregation services on behalf of the town for a 1-year time period.

Mark Capadona from Colonial Power explained that the mailing has been completed and that anyone that does not want to participate can opt out. Mark Capadona explained that if at any point the rate from Eversource drops below the Verde price residents can opt out of Verde and go back to Eversource.

Philip Williams, Energy Manager explained that he had many questions once the mailing was sent out, but said once he explained the program, residents were grateful for the savings.

Water Policy Committee Warrant Article Review

Wayne Bates, 66 Strobus Lane, Chairperson of the Water Policy Committee, explained that the Water Policy Committee was given a charge to look at additional water sources. Mr. Bates explained that the Water Policy Committee has placed 3 warrant articles as a result of the review they completed.

Jeff Lemay, Summit Lane, member of the Water Policy Committee stated the committee is trying to control the behavior of irrigating property, not the equipment being used.

Acceptance of Minutes

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to accept the regular session Board of Selectmen minutes of March 2, 2016, as presented. This motion was seconded Rob Scherer by with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Selectman Appointments

Board of Health

Mark Dassoni, Myrle Cunis and Jon Fetherston completed Talent Bank Forms seeking to fill the current vacancy on the Board of Health. This appointment will expire on May 17th when the next town election will take place.

Myrle Cunis, 14 Wenzell Road, explained that she completed the talent bank form because she wanted to help out the community, but she would like to withdraw her form, given Jon Fetherston is also interested and has prior experience.

Mark Dassoni explained that he is interested is serving on the committee to help build a team that works together. Mark said if he is not selected to fill this vacancy, he would like to be considered as an alternate.

Jon Fetherston, 98 Heritage Ave., explained that he hopes his many strengths and prior experience on the Board of Health would be beneficial to the current Board of Health committee.

Charlie Lagassey, 85 Howe Street, said that he would like to support Jon Fetherston, because he feels that continuity on the board would be helpful.

KG Narayana, member of the Board of Health wanted to stress that the Board has continued to be productive even with their differences.

Judy Margulies stated that she leaves the decision up to the Board of Selectmen and supports whatever decision the Board makes.

Steve Mitchell made a motion to appoint Jon Fetherston to the Board of Health effective April 6, 2016 to May 17, 2016. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Cultural Council

Tonya Yaskovich would like to fill the vacancy on the Cultural Council. Tonya explained that she is looking for a way to get involved in the community and she thought this would be a great opportunity.

Steve Mitchell made a motion to appoint Tonya Yaskovich to the Ashland Cultural Council with a term to expire on April 6, 2019. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Town Manager Appointments

Assistant Town Manager

Michael Herbert reported that he is appointing Jennifer Ball as Assistant Town Manager, and that Jennifer will be starting on April 19, 2016.

Michael Herbert explained that the town received about 30 applicants for this vacancy and he wanted to be sure that he appointed someone that could bring a different skill set than what he has. Michael mentioned that the Assistant Town Manager will work on project management and grant writing. He would also like the incumbent to work on developing a Health and Human Service Department.

Jennifer Ball said that she is very excited to come back to local government. Jennifer explained that she is currently working in emergency management and really misses some of the passion she had when she working for the City of Lowell.

Human Resource Director

Michael Herbert reported that he is appointing Gregory Enos as Human Resource Director. Michael explained that Greg will be starting on April 19, 2016.

Greg Enos said that he is currently the Assistant Town Administrator of the Town of Whitman. Greg said that he has developed many personnel policies, he has been involved with negotiations and is very excited to be given the opportunity to development the town's Human Resource Department.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to appoint Jennifer Ball and Greg Enos and waive the 15-day waiting period with regards to these appointments. This motion was seconded by Rob Scherer with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Old / New Business

Enterprise Fund Budgets

Michael Herbert presented 3 different options with regards to the water and sewer enterprise funds. Michael explained that some of the capital items listed are not going to create additional problems by deferring the items, but feels that the Board should look at addressing the booster pump at Independence Lane.

Stephen Morgan, Capital Improvement Committee member explained that the items being discussed have not been reviewed by the CIC and he would like the Board to send this item back to the CIC prior to the Board taking any action.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to direct the Town Manager to present a 0% increase for both the water and sewer enterprise funds in the budget to be reviewed after town meeting in the fall. This motion was seconded by Steve Mitchell with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Steve Mitchell made a motion to extend the meeting past 10:00 pm. This motion was seconded by Yolanda Greaves with a unanimous vote of 4-1-0 (Hakansson)

Disband Cadillac Paint Working Group

Michael Herbert explained that there has been some discussion on open meeting law violations and when investigated it appears that there really is no current working. Ed Hart has been working on this issue, but as an individual not as a member of a group.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to disband the Cadillac Paint Working Group. This motion was seconded by Steve Mitchell and thanked Ed Hart and everyone else that has worked on this with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0

Annual Town Meeting Speaking Roles

The Board members reviewed the warrant articles and made decisions on who will speak to each warrant articles.

BAA Grant Review

BAA Grants will be reviewed and decided at the April 20, 2016 meeting.

Board of Selectmen Naming Policy

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

2016 Boston Marathon Runners Breakfast

Susan Robie explained that the Board of Selectmen will be hosting a breakfast for the TOA runners on Saturday April 16, 2016 from 9:00 am to 11:00 at TJ Spirits.

Town Manager Reports

Goals and Objectives

Michael Herbert presented the Board with a complete and detailed list of Goals and Objectives. Michael mentioned that he will provide the Board with quarterly updates.

Yolanda Greaves made a motion to accept and approve the Town Manager Goals and Objectives as presented. This motion was seconded by Carl Hakansson with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

Rail Transit District Forum

Michael Herbert recapped the meeting from last Thursday on the RTD. Michael explained that as a result of the meeting they have obtained a consultant that will assist with addressing some of the concerns and is waiting to hear back from EPA on some other questions that had been raised.

Michael mentioned that many of the concerns involved the blasting and as a result he spoke with Chief Boothby and he suggested hiring a professional to be onsite during the blasting.

Housing Production Plan Update

Joe Magnani reported the Department of Housing and Community Development approved the Ashland Housing Production Plan from February 11, 2016 to February 10, 2021.

Economic Development Update

Michael Herbert reviewed many of the ways that Beth Reynolds has reached out to the business community. Michael explained that the town was recognized as BIO Ready, which is great for the community.

Triboard Meeting Recap and Budget

Michael Herbert said that he and Brittany Iacaponi presented a budget that outlined 2 scenarios encompassing a budget with and without the override passing.

Citizen Academy

Michael Herbert explained that he has been working with Judith Sallet to run a yearlong program that will be a "Citizen Academy". Michael is hoping to have a class that will start in September.

Space Update

Michael explained that with the creation of an HR Office the Finance Director / Accounting Department have been relocated in the basement. Veteran's Service Officer will be relocated to the Community Center.

Board Reports

Carl Hakansson

Carl wanted to know if someone could flunk out of the Citizen's Academy.

Carl gave a shout out to Dona Walsh with her involvement with the bomb scare.

Rob Scherer

Rob e-mailed about the meeting on May 11th and he wants to know if the Board passed the resolution of Chapter 70.

Yolanda Greaves

Yolanda commended everyone that was involved in moving the children during the bomb scare at the High School and congratulation to everyone that was involved.

Yolanda participated in the Five Town Special Olympics event that was held at the High School last Friday. She said it was a great event and nice to see.

Yolanda will attend the MPO Meeting in Boston to advocate for the Rte. 126 project. The town is scheduled for 2020, but to avoid getting bumped, attendance at the meeting is important to make sure we are on track.

Yolanda announced that the Washington Street Players from Holliston will be presented the Fantastics April 22nd, 23rd, 29th, 30th and May 1st. Rich Greaves will be performing.

Steve Mitchell

Steve reported that tomorrow morning the Lions will be hosting their monthly Senior Breakfast at 9am at the Community Center.

Steve stated that the Lions Food Drive was a great success, because people were very generous.

Steve attended the Mass Farmer's Market Annual Workshop.

Steve reminded everyone that the Boston Marathon will take place on Monday April 16th.

Joe Magnani

Joe gave a shout out to everyone that assisted with bomb scare and he congratulated the High School students on their behavior.

Joe announced there is an Override Forum tomorrow night at the Ashland Selectmen's office 6pm-8pm.

Joe announced on May 23 the Lions Club is hosting a golf tournament.

Joe gave a shout out to DPW for job well done with the recent snow storm.

Joe congratulated his granddaughter on her recent graduation.

Adjournment

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