



Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2014

6:30 p.m.

Cotter Room

Members present: Mike Franey, Ken Coyle, Andy Burbine, Tom Dion, Maureen Jansen

- **Pledge of Allegiance**
- **Reorganization of the Board of Selectmen** – Town Manager asks if there are any nominations for Chairman.

M/Franey to appoint Ken Coyle as Chairman

S/Burbine

Voted 5-0

Chairman Coyle asks if there are any nominations for Vice Chairman.

M/Jansen to appoint Andy Burbine as Vice Chairman

S/Franey

Voted 5-0

- **Public Announcements:**

1. Chairman announced that the 16th annual duck race will be held this Sunday, May 4, 2014, put on by the Music Parents Association at Beaver Brook playground.
2. Chairman announced "Anything with a cord" will be held on this Saturday, May 3, 2014 to drop off appliances, just not large appliances.
3. Chairman announced that The Prayer Breakfast will be held this Thursday, May 1, 2014 at 7:00 a.m. at the Emerald Hall
4. Chairman announced that the Informational Common Core Forum to be held on Wednesday, May 21, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Senior Center – Ms. Wendy Happell addressed the Board to say that the forum is for parents and residents in Abington and surrounding towns. The purpose is to learn more about Common Core testing, pilot testing, and PARCC testing. Ms. Happell provided a detailed explanation and list of attendees.

- **Public Appointments:**

6:35 p.m. – Abington Gas Inc., 225 Brockton Avenue – request to increase number of cars on lot from 23 to 28.

M/Franey to open the hearing

S/Dion

Voted 5-0

Mr. Panduka Dabara addressed the Board requesting the change as a result of no longer renting U Haul trucks. There are no objections from Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Building Inspector. Taxes are up to date. The hearing has been advertised and abutters have been notified.

There are no abutters present.

M/Burbine to close the hearing

S/Dion

Voted 5-0

M/Burbine to approve the increase in cars

S/Dion

Voted 5-0

- **Action/Discussion items:**

1. Approval of April 14, 2014 open session minutes

M/Franey to approve minutes

S/Dion

Jansen abstains.

Voted 4-0-1

2. Nomination of one representative to Old Colony Elder Services Board of Directors – Suzanne Djusberg

M/Dion to appoint Suzanne Djusberg, Council on Aging Director

S/Franey

Voted 5-0

3. Town Manager Report—Town Manager provided a General Update to the Board (attached) Assistant Town Manager also asked if there was support to proceed with investigating the rail trails project as well as advertising on our website. There was support for both.

4. Public Comment – Mr. Bob Pratt, 239 Walnut Street, addressed the Board with concerns regarding the regionalization of the Veterans Service Department with Whitman. Town Manager explained it will provide better service to both communities. Selectman Franey stated that as a Vietnam Veteran this subject is very important. He has researched this and spoke with the Veteran’s groups in Town and feels it is the best way to proceed. He likened it to not wanting change. The automated trash was a tough sell, but probably now residents would not want to go back to the old way. Selectman Franey also stated that if it doesn’t work, we can always go back to having separate Director’s in separate communities.

Mr. David Lee questioned why we would eliminate a Director before we had one in place. Town Manager explained we are handling all benefits to all Veterans internally and expect to have the Regional Veterans Department in place by July 1, 2014.

M/Coyle to enter into executive session for the purpose of strategy pertaining to collective bargaining with the Abington Manager’s Association and not to return into open session

S/Dion

Jansen, aye

Dion, aye

Franey, aye

Burbine, aye

Coyle, aye

Voted 5-0

Meeting adjourned: 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dori R. Jamieson
Assistant Town Manager



Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

TO: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FROM: TOWN MANAGER
DATE: April 28, 2014
SUBJ: GENERAL UPDATE

The following is meant to be a general update of activities of the Town Manager and staff. Should any member desire more information regarding any particular matter please contact me personally.

1. Financial – After our Financial Officers Group meeting on Wednesday I will be producing an updated budget document for FY 15 this week that I will forward to the attention of the Board and Finance Committee. Unless there is a meaningful changes in state aid projections this document will be intended to be the Town Manager FY 2015 Budget Recommendation.
2. Veteran's Services:
 - a. Due to the respective schedules of me and my counterpart in Whitman you can expect a draft Veterans Service District Inter-municipal Agreement at your next meeting rather than tonight. As I have previously mentioned these IMA's are fairly boilerplate and merely reflect the application that was submitted and approved by the state.
 - b. I am meeting with a retired Veteran's Services Officer next week in an attempt to supplement our administrative efforts through the remainder of the fiscal year. We are starting to collect applications from people interested in the Veterans District director position. This would be filled prior to the part-time assistant director and part time administrative support person.
 - c. I wanted to also note the participation of the Board members at the Vietnam Veterans Day observance yesterday and to further note that Dori Jamieson was the surprise recipient of the 22nd Freedom Award by the Richard Fitts Chapter. While this is truly a compliment to Dori - I think that it speaks to the support and concerns that the town's people and town government have provided veterans (and will continue to provide) for many years.
 - d. The filing to the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission by the most recent, interim Veterans Agent has been dismissed by the Commission.
3. South Shore Tri-Town - I was contacted by the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen in Rockland to request that I participate in a meeting to discuss the status of the existing, varying, legislative proposals. As proposed by Mr. Ed Kimball this would include a member of Starwood, SSTT Executive Director Kevin Donovan and a representative from each town. I indicated my willingness to participate, and I will let the Board know if and when this coordinated.
4. Memorial Arch – I am waiting for the appropriate contract documents to be returned by the successful low bidder so that we can get moving. While this firm has done several public projects but the contract documents required for state and municipal work are daunting. We hope to have these in place soon as a meeting with the Conservation Commission is necessary before actual work begins.
5. Personnel Audit – We recently received a draft report of the findings and recommendations by the Human Resources consultant with the Collins Center at UMass Boston. These will be refined somewhat but centralizing and bringing our personnel system into full compliance is our priority once we get through town meeting.
6. Road Safety Audit Chestnut and Hancock Street intersection – Scheduling still pending.