



Town of Abington

OFFICE OF
TOWN MANAGER
500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351
(781) 982-2100
FAX (781) 982-2138

**Board of Selectmen Meeting
January 14, 2013
6:30 p.m.
Cotter Room**

Members present: Andy Burbine, Mike Franey, Kevin Donovan, Ken Coyle, Tom Dion

Public Announcements:

- Burning permits are available on line
- Nomination papers for the Town election are available at the Town Clerk's office
- Christmas tree pick up is Saturday, January 19, 2013
- Open meeting law seminar by Lauren Goldberg of Kopelman and Paige is scheduled for January 28, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Cotter Room. All appointed and elected board and committee members are strongly encouraged to attend
- Property tax abatement applications are due to the Assessors' office on or before February 1, 2013
- Shelley Vaugine, SAGE Committee – Shelley provided an update on the gardening classes held at the Library.

Public Appointments:

6:30 p.m. – Continuation of all alcohol section 12 license from Abington VFW Post 5737 to Mastrangelo Family Catering, Inc., 30 Central Street. Neighbors spoke in favor of this transfer. The licensee is scheduled to go before the Zoning Board of Appeals to request a special permit for the change of use on February 14, 2013.

Selectman Franey recused himself as he is a member of the VFW.

M/Donovan to approve the all alcohol license and making the attached conditions as part of the license, along with the common vicutaler license and entertainment license.

S/Dion

Voted 4-0-1

6:35 p.m. – Change of Manager, Columbus Club of Abington, 254 Hancock Street. – Request to change the manager from Thomas Connolly to Bernard Saccoach.

Selectman Donovan recuses himself as he is a member

M/Franey to approve the change of manager

S/Dion

Voted 4-0-1

Action/Discussion items:

1. Approval of minutes – November 19, 2012 open session minutes
M/Donovan to approve
S/Franey
Voted 5-0

M/Donovan to approve December 10, 2012 open session minutes
S/Franey
Voted 5-0
September 10, 2012 executive session minutes to get further review.
2. Request from John Buckley, 333 Colonel Hunt Drive seeking support for stricter gun control measures. (letter attached)
M/Donovan to send a letter from the Board of Selectmen to Representative Diehl, Senator Keenan, Congressman Lynch, and U.S. Senator Warren requesting same.
S/Dion
Voted 5-0
3. Open Special Town Meeting Warrant January 14, 2013 and close warrant on March 15, 2013.
M/Franey to open warrant January 14, 2013 and close on March 15, 2013.
S/Donovan
Voted 5-0
4. Open Annual Town Meeting Warrant January 14, 2013 and close warrant on February 1, 2013.
M/Franey to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant on January 14, 2013 and close the warrant on February 15, 2013.
S/Donovan
Voted 5-0
5. Discussion on resignations from the Conservation Commission – Alex Bezanson, Martin Williams, Tim Warner, Hal Norton, James Connolly
M/Donovan to accept resignations with regret as one member had over 20 years experience, and send a letter of thanks.
S/Franey
Voted 5-0
6. Report from Ken Coyle regarding the Town Manager Search Committee’s progress and discussion as to whether the Board would like to provide the Search Committee with a salary range or salary cap for the position – Selectman Coyle relayed the time frame and a salary range was discussed.

M/Donovan to have a range from \$128,000 - \$149,000 for the total package
S/Dion amending it to \$125,000 to \$140,000
Burbine, no
Coyle, no
Voted 3-2

7. Town Manager's consultation with the Board on the preparation of the Fiscal Year 2014 budget pursuant to Article VI, Section 6-2 Town Charter. Town Manager gave a thorough update with regard to the preparation of the FY2014 budget. No votes were taken.
8. Tom Dion – Discussion on spending, hiring, and benefit freeze. Selectman Dion gave a thorough presentation on why he is suggesting the freeze. Chairman Burbine strongly states he cannot vote on something he is seeing for the first time, and it is in violation of the Board's policy of not voting on any item while seeing it for the first time.

M/Donovan to implement a salary and benefit freeze from this day forward without the approval of the Board of Selectmen. This has no effect on any agreements previously signed.
S/Franey
Burbine, no
Voted 4-1

9. Town Manager Report –

- Discussion on draft financial policies. Town Manager reviewed draft financial policies to be reviewed and adopted at a future meeting.
- Discussion on charging municipalities served by the joint water works for water use. Town Manager reviewed the attached letter send to the Water Superintendent, and requested a joint meeting with the Selectmen and water commissioners.
- Detailed breakdown of the salary adjustments to non-collective bargaining positions. Town Manager reviewed the salary adjustments. Chairman stated he approves of the increases but wishes the Board had prior notice.

M/Donovan to adjourn
S/Franey
Voted 5-0

Meeting adjourned: 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Dori R. Jamieson
Assistant Town Manager

Voted Conditions as Part
OF THE License.

January 14, 2013

Business outline of function Hall

I. Functions and food main room of building

- A. All functions will be a five hour window or less that are held in the main room. All functions must have food of some sort.
 - 1. Emerald hall does not rent the hall to anyone, there are rules to every function and must be of appropriate age to do so.
 - 2. We do not allow gatherings of any sort for drinking events.
- B. Functions will consist of fundraising, weddings, baby showers, christenings, birthdays, engagements etc.
- C. Function times to end no later than what is dictated by town law and abcc.
- D. During the week type of events would consist of training seminars. Bereavements , school dinners, and meetings. As we no there are no music or alcohol at these events but may have the need to serve alcohol for briefments so I would need the permission to be able to do so
- E. Smaller room known as members lounge. The only events to take place here will be all listed in topic B above, but on a smaller scale 20-60 people. And will be used for our offices Monday thru Friday to meet with people and show the room and conduct our business. Even though our business will be conciderd public the functions will all be private invitation only. This applies to all functions that will be performed in the facility, inside or out. "Private Public Functions"

Grove or picnic area

- A. No alcohol gatherings in this area, the time I would like to use this area is from 12pm to 5pm.
1. During may thru september
 2. I am not looking for entertainment licence in this area just to be able to serve food. And non alcoholic beverages.
 3. Picnics for seniors, mentally challenged. And religious orientated groups would be the clientel.
 4. This would not be everyday of the week as of now I do not have any functions that need this area, but would like to try to get a few during the nice weather.

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January 5, 2013

R. Andrew Burbine, Chairman
Board of Selectmen
Town Hall
Abington MA

Dear Mr. Chairman:

At the meeting of the Board of Selectmen on Monday, December 17, 2012 I asked the Board for consideration of a proposal to write our new Congressman Stephen F. Lynch seeking his support for stricter gun control measures and I was asked to put such request in writing so that the Board might have a concrete proposal for consideration at its next meeting on Monday, January 14, 2013.

This letter, I hope, will place this issue of gun control on your agenda for your consideration.

I seek the support of the Board to bring this matter to Congressman Lynch and to ask him to support tighter gun control proposals in the new Congress including, but not limited to:

The renewal of the ban on automatic and semi-automatic weapons, including automatic/semi-automatic handguns;

A ban on high capacity magazines;

Background checks for gun purchasers at gun shows, and;

Background checks for private sales of guns.

Finally I would ask the Board to ask of the Congressman to assume a leadership role on the issue of gun control and support a discharge petition, or initiate a discharge petition, to make sure the issue of gun control reaches the floor of the House of Representatives for discussion and vote.

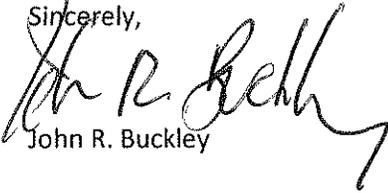
In the wake of the tragedy at Newtown, Connecticut and the other horrific events in the last few years one often feels helpless as to how to respond. A letter from our elected leaders seeking action at the national level from the Congress on this issue is, I believe, a positive and helpful action.

In my opinion a communication from elected officials has more influence and weight and serves to keep the issue in the foreground to a greater degree than a private communication and, I believe, it is most important to keep this particular issue in the foreground.

I hope the Board will act favorably on this request and do all that it can to keep this issue before the public and our elected officials and not let it fade from public attention.

I look forward to discussing this matter with you further if you believe it might be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John R. Buckley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

John R. Buckley

333 Colonel Hunt Drive
Abington MA



Town of Abington #9

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

Office of the Town Manager

John O. D'Agostino

781-982-2100 (Office)

781-982-2138

<http://www.abingtonma.gov>

January 8, 2013

Dan Callahan
Abington/Rockland Joint Water Works
366 Center Ave
Rockland, MA 02370

Dear Mr. Callahan:

I am writing in response to the Water Commission's desire to begin charging municipalities served by the joint water works for water use. There has been a longstanding policy whether written or implied which did not provide a charge for water use by the municipality. As you are well aware, one of my first discussions with you when I came to Abington addressed this very same topic. I believe the water rate must capture the true cost of providing water to Abington residents. In this manner, I support a water rate charge to municipal government and to various departments under certain circumstances. There are concerns; I would like to point out to the commission in their decision to implement water use charges.

While the joint water works is not an enterprise account under the definition of the state statute, Abington must treat it as an enterprise account to accurately capture the true cost of water consumption. The current water rate, by vote of the Water Commissioners is expected to increase by 30%. I believe this increase cannot be attributed just to the cost of capital projects. Sometime ago, I requested a copy of the latest water rate study, commissioned by your office. In order to accurately understand what the water rate charges include, such a study will need to be shared with the Town, especially if we are now responsible for paying a newly imposed water charge. In the future, the Town of Abington would like to see at least a three-year rate study update to ensure the water rate is capturing the total cost of the operations of the utility. Further, the philosophy of charging for water use must also include the same charge to the Water Department. This will ensure that the total cost of operating the department is accurately captured by the water rate.

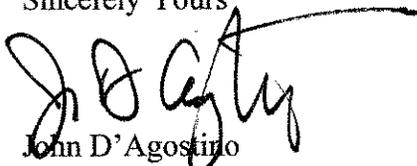
Finally, I would urge the Water Commissioners to consider a Municipal Water rate. The majority of water used by the municipality is for a public purpose; the watering of fields for example, benefits the public and therefore should not be treated as one rate for private

consumption. Also, I would suggest we implement this charge over a two-year phased in fiscal period, paying half the actual charge for FY 14 and half the charge for FY15. This will give Abington the ability to gradually plan and budget for the costs within a two-year budget cycle.

I am sure you are aware of the budget pressures facing municipalities like Abington, including the latest 9C cuts imposed by Governor Patrick. Such State Aid cuts means reductions to our existing FY 13 operating budget. I would ask for your department's consideration of the town's fiscal issues when deciding to impose such charges in one lump sum.

I would respectfully request that my letter be read into the record of the meeting scheduled to discuss charging Abington for water use.

Sincerely Yours



John D'Agostino
Town Manager, Town of Abington MA

Cc: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee
Superintendent Schafter
Department Heads
Allan R. Chiocca