



# Town of Abington

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500 GLINIEWICZ WAY  
ABINGTON, MA 02351

Board of Selectmen Minutes  
March 10, 2014  
6:30 p.m.  
Cotter Room

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

- Pledge of Allegiance

Public Appointments:

6:30 p.m. – Dan Callahan, Water Superintendent, discussion on water distribution to Southfield – Mr. Callahan provided a thorough update to the Board regarding the withdrawal permit that is on file with the DEP. The permit was submitted to DEP in June, 2012. It is not in connection with water distribution to Southfield. Abington residents will not be losing any water capacity to Southfield. We are currently registered for 2.21 million gallons per day. Our own needs are 2.62 at this point, and have requested additional withdrawal capacity. A 20 year permit to increase capacity every five years to obtain 2.73, 2.81 and 2.90 million gallons.

Action/Discussion items:

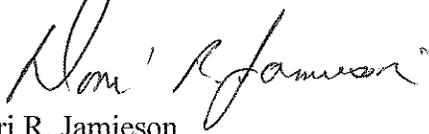
1. Approval of minutes –  
M/Coyle to approve February 6, 2014 open session  
S/Burbine  
Voted 4-0  
M/Burbine to approve February 10, 2014 open session  
S/Coyle  
Voted 4-0  
M/Burbine to approve February 24, 2014 open session  
S/Coyle  
Voted 4-0  
M/Coyle to approve March 5, 2014 open session  
S/Burbine  
Voted 4-0

2. Discussion on postponing Special and Annual Town Meetings until Monday, June 9, 2014 pursuant to G.L. c 29, s9 (attached). Town Manager explained the reasoning to delay Town Meetings in hopes of receiving additional funding from the State  
M/Burbine to postpone Special and Annual Town Meetings until Monday, June 9, 2014  
S/Coyle  
Voted 4-0
3. Review of Special and Annual Town Meeting Warrants – Town Manager reviewed the articles of the draft warrant.
4. Town Manager Report – Town Manager stated that the bids have come back with regarding to refurbishing the arch. There were some concerns that are being reviewed by our Project Manager. Town Manager reviewed the general update. (attached).
5. Public Comment – Selectman Coyle asked if the intersection of Adams and Washington Street could be reviewed as there are some safety concerns from residents.

M/Burbine to adjourn  
S/Dion  
Voted 4-0

Meeting adjourned: 8:05 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: March 7, 2014  
Subj: Annual and Special Town Meeting Dates

After discussions with the town Financial Officers Group I request favorable consideration for moving the dates of the Annual and Special Town Meeting to June 9, 2014. For comparison purposes be reminded that the 2013 town meetings were held on June 10. Although in 2013 there was a STM schedule for April 22, this meeting did not attain the required quorum and was moved to June 10 to correspond to the date of the ATM. This recommendation is also made in light of the following:

1. Last year the Board received instruction from town counsel that:

“the provisions of G.L. c.39, §9 specifically allow a Board of Selectmen to delay the date of the Annual Town Meeting, notwithstanding the provisions of a local charter or bylaw”...

Because of this flexibility, as well as the need to deliberate on budget reduction options, I am proposing that the meeting be moved to Monday, June 9, 2014. The motion for the board constructed by town counsel last year (and adjusted for the appropriate dates in 2014) would be as follows:

I move, pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.39, §9 which statute permits the Board of Selectmen to delay the date of an annual town meeting notwithstanding the provisions of any general law, bylaw, or charter to the contrary, to hold the Annual Town Meeting, and a Special Town Meeting on June 9, 2014 at 7:00pm at Abington High School; and further, that the date of the Annual Town Election, Saturday, April 26, 2014, is unaffected by the vote hereunder, and shall be held as scheduled.

*I have attached the entire legal opinion from last year for your information.*

2. While it would be ideal to have an STM in April for the purpose of moving funds between line items, if last year is any indication, it would be difficult to

obtain a quorum for a special town meeting with such minimal content at an earlier date. While this may result in some hardship keep in mind that the Board of Selectmen, with the consent of the FINCOM, has some ability to make budget transfers in the months of May and June. This ability would be helpful in getting the town into an early June town meeting without significant hardship.

3. I know that we all had hoped to be able to deal with the legislative business of the town in April, however the existing proposal with regard to local aid forces us to consider budget and organizational decisions that would simply be premature on April 7. Also, it is my opinion that it is best to recognize that the collective time, energy, and expense of attempting to hold a STM that would likely not reach a quorum in April does not serve the public. With that in mind I believe that it makes more sense to hold the STM in concert with the date of the ATM.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.



# Town of Abington

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TO: BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
FROM: TOWN MANAGER  
DATE: March 7, 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 – The FINCOM is schedule to conclude its budget discussion with departments this coming week. At that point I will be providing them and the Board with a preliminary FY 2015 proposal that should be the basis for deliberation.
2. Old Colony Planning Council – This week we had an internal “kick off” meeting that included members of our SAGE committee with regard to the two approved technical assistance requests from the town:
  - a. Green Community consultation services to assist the SAGE Committee and the town in providing the town with the opportunity to adopt the necessary requirements to be Green Community certified. Doing so would open the door for significant grant opportunities, however the requirements do include a zoning change as well as acceptance of the so-called “Stretch Code”. Educating all of us and the public on the impacts and benefits of both will be a big part of the effort by OCPC understanding that this is not going to happen at our 2014 annual town meeting; and,
  - b. Preparing a “Guide to Doing Business in Abington”. We determined during our discussion that we would probably be better served by having two separate documents: one that is directed towards business and another that is directed specifically towards the needs of a homeowner who has little or no experience dealing with the town for projects (additions, renovations, etc.)
3. Peer to Peer project - We had a “kick off” meeting with regard to this project also. In addition we finally received from the state the appropriate contract information that is necessary before we could actually begin incurring project costs. This is intended to map out a strategy to address the issue of community aesthetics, etc. and we are currently reacting to the requests for appropriate information necessary to assist our peer “consultant” in helping us.
4. Veteran’s Service District – Since our last meeting the Whitman Board of Selectmen has voted to submit a joint application. This will be submitted this coming week and we anticipate a speedy response from the Dept. of Veterans Affairs.
5. Memorial Arch – We opened bids on Wednesday for the Masonry work, which constitutes by far the majority of the project. You may recall that this is the second bidding process due to the fact that all of the responses in our first bidding effort would have put the project beyond the budgeted amount. The bids are currently under review by the project manager and we are hopeful that the low bid is indeed responsive so that we may move forward soon with the restoration.
6. Union negotiations – I was intending to discuss the status at the March 10 meeting of the Board but, due to the ever shifting landscape, an update on March 24 I believe will be more productive.
7. **REPEAT ITEM** – We have our Landfill engineering consultant Steven Wright and a representative from our Audit firm set up to meet with the Board on March 24.