



TOWN OF ASHBURNHAM

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TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT March 2, 2015

Town Administrator's reports are available on-line at <http://www.ashburnham-ma.gov>

TOWN COMMITTEES

Currently there are openings on the following (1) Conservation Commission, (1) Council on Aging Board, (1) Parks and Recreation, (2) Historical Commission, and (2) Zoning Board of Appeals. These are listed on the Town's website under Volunteer Opportunities.

FY 16 BUDGET

Met with the Capital Planning Committee and after a presentation and review they voted to recommend the Capital Plan for FY 16 with the exception of the second ambulance which will need more information. The governor's budget is due the end of this week after which I would like to schedule a meeting to go over the FY 16 budget in more detail.

INSURANCE

At the last meeting, the BOS voted to accept Ch32b sections 21-23 as a means to change contribution and plan design for our health insurance. Edd Byrnes, our insurance advisor, held a meeting on Monday the 23rd of February, with our Insurance Advisory Group that consists of representatives from all labor groups. There is a follow up meeting scheduled on the 11th of March. Employees are looking for a better comparison of how the plan will change and what is being mandated by the government.

COUNCIL ON AGING

The Council on Aging sent out survey to residents in their light bill to see what they believe the pros and cons of combining with Westminster at their new COA center would be. They received 86 surveys. The pros and cons were summarized at a meeting with the seniors and they prioritized them as follows:

PROS	CONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Additional Programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senior Center currently allows one stop shopping with other needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Accessibility of Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No local facility for seniors to go to
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hot meals 5 days a week	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost too much for travel
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meet new friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Concerned that transportation unreliable
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Westminster wants our assets Van - \$\$

The meeting was attended by 12 seniors most of which actually use our current facilities. After discussion of the pros and cons it was voted by those in attendance three to one that the Cons outweighed the Pros. Hence they wanted to stay where they are.

It will be my recommendation to the Board that we do not look to regionalize with Westminster.

ENERGY ADVISORY

The state has approved the improvements at the Library for approximately \$60,000. There will be specification developed and an RFP put together for the project. We went out for bids for the phase II audits for the town hall, PSB, and the light department and will be bringing forward our recommendations.

DISPATCH UNION

Met with them on February 25, 2015

LAND USE ADMINISTRATOR

Land Use Administrator Heather Ruziak started today the 2nd of March.

TREASURER

Asst Treasurer Mary Ellen Kelly started today with the retirement of Barbara Brown who worked for the town 30 years. There was a small gathering on Barbara's last day. Barbara was a dedicated and valued employee and she will be sorely missed.

Paul Pollastri is also retiring in April and I will be putting together an ad for his replacement. Paul currently works a 20 hour work week.

REMINDER

The Annual Town Meeting is May 5, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at Oakmont. The deadline to submit warrant articles is Wednesday, March 18th at 4:00 p.m.

OFFICE HOURS

Tyler Wolanin, the Legislative Aide to Senator Gobi will hold office hours at Town Hall, in the Center Meeting Room, on Tuesday, March 24th from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Any interested constituents or town officials are welcome.