

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 3, 2013
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
7 PM**

MINUTES

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 7PM with a roll call. Normand DeWolfe, Jeanette I. Stewart present. Phil Preston absent with notice.

Others Present: TA Paul Branscombe, Pat Crowell, and members of the Public.

APPROVALS

Minutes of July 24: DeWolfe moved to approve with a minor clarification, Stewart seconded. All in favor.

Minutes of August 5: DeWolfe moved to approve with a minor clarification. Stewart seconded. All in favor.

Minutes of August 14: DeWolfe moved to table these minutes because the clerk had some questions about them. Stewart seconded. All in favor.

Minutes of August 21: DeWolfe moved to approve with a minor clarification, Stewart seconded. All in favor.

Minutes of August 28: DeWolfe moved to approve with a minor clarification. Stewart seconded. All in favor.

Signing of the Manifests: TA Branscombe read the total for Accounts Payable, Welfare, and the Payroll as the Selectmen signed the manifests. The totals are: \$38,023.86 for Accounts Payable, \$3,068.02 for Welfare, and \$10,632.07 for Payroll. DeWolfe stated that he was in earlier and reviewed the folders. Welfare time and day will be changed beginning October 1st to Tuesday evenings from 4:30 to 6:30 PM.

Signature File – Two raffle applications, one for the Episcopal Church, and one for the Women’s Club.

OLD BUSINESS – July 4th Committee – TA Branscombe spoke about what is going on with what is left of the committee. Chairman Stewart has been invited to a meeting with the committee and Primex, the Town’s insurance carrier, on September 9th a 7PM at the Fire Station.

Library Trustees – Alice Staples, who is a Library Trustee, is in the audience. Chairman Stewart suggested that the Trustees and Selectmen meet at the next worksession at 9AM on September 11th.

Community Garden Exploratory Committee – TA Branscombe explained where the site is. Mike Latulippe and several others have said that they will help with it. The Town does own the property. Chairman Stewart said that if the garden doesn't work, then it must be put back the way it was. The School will have the upper portion of the land. Chairman Stewart motioned to support the Community Garden. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

9 Pleasant Street – There have been several complaints regarding the 5th wheel trailer on the lot. The Building Inspector has said that it is illegal because that area is not zoned for that. A Cease & Desist Order has been left on the door to the trailer. TA Branscombe will follow up within a week.

NEW BUSINESS

Reval letters have been mailed.

In 2018 the Town of Ashland is going to celebrate the 150th anniversary of its founding (and the 255th anniversary of its existence). The Selectmen have been approached by a group of citizens requesting the Board appoint a Sesquicentennial Celebration Committee to begin undertaking the planning and fundraising to celebrate this milestone.

TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT – TA Branscombe reported on various subjects. His report is part of these minutes.

Phil Preston came in at 7:20 PM.

The Chairman asked Chief Randall if the new hire, Ryan Beausoleil, was here. The Chief replied that he was not scheduled to work tonite.

TA Branscombe read from the Treasurer's report. The current balance in the Town's account is \$1,253,360.62.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lee Nichols, electric department superintendent, passed out some information about how much of the welfare budget electric customers are responsible for.

Sherri Downing had some questions about handicapped parking on Mechanic Street. She would like to make sure that space is plowed in the Winter. The Chairman asked Sherry if her business is handicapped accessible. Ms. Downing said it is not. Chief Randall said that he will ticket any overnight parking on Mechanic Street. The signs will be back up November 1st.

Ron Boyce had some questions regarding West St. He wanted to know why there was no bid for the paving. The Chairman explained that GMI has always been the lowest bidder and they were available to do the work on a timely basis.

Steve Felton asked who owned the parking lot behind the Fire Station. The Chairman said that it is owned by John Glidden.

Sherry Downing asked about the Welfare system and what percentage of people actually give back to the town. The Chairman said that Welfare recipients are offered a new program now to help them budget their money. Lee Nichols said that electric customers are repeat offenders.

There being no further business, Chairman Stewart motioned to adjourn at 7:42 PM. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

NEXT MEETING: September 11, 2013 at the Town Office at 8:30 AM

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Crowell

9-6-13