

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2013
ASHLAND TOWN OFFICE
8:30 AM**

MINUTES

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order with a roll call at 8:30AM. Phil Preston, Norm DeWolfe, Jeanette I. Stewart all present.

Others Present: TA Paul Branscombe, Pat Crowell. Mardean Badger, Mark Scarano, Don Jutton, Steve Felton, Alice Staples, Sarah Weinberg, David Ruell, and Tim Paquette, also present.

TA Branscombe read the totals for Payroll, Accounts Payable, and the Welfare. The Board signed the manifests and the items in the Signature File. DeWolfe stated that he was in earlier to review the folders.

The Chairman explained HB522 which allows the signing of the manifests outside of a public meeting. The Selectmen can come in to the town office when the manifests are ready and sign them.

The Selectmen signed the MS-1 Extension because Utility values won't come in from the state until October 1st, so the Town needs an extension until October 15th.

9 Pleasant Street – Ms. Nesbit, owner, came to the Building Inspector and asked for extension of the time she was given to move her 5th wheel trailer. The Selectmen agreed to extend the time to the end of the October 2013.

NEW BUSINESS:

Don Jutton from MRI spoke about his assessment of what Ashland needs for financial support. Mark Scarano mentioned that he believes the Town needs to keep up financially to avoid what happened in the '90's with Rosie McNamara. Selectman Preston said that our books are audited now and they weren't back when the fraud happened. Steve Felton thought that we are moving in the right direction with the budget and the CIP committee. Ashland is unique because we have a school and our own utilities. Mr. Jutton said that we should try to find someone like the previous finance person, Anita Treloar. He says there is a shortage of finance persons for towns and schools. He said that MRI can get us through this budget season. Some discussion followed. The Selectmen agreed to put an ad out for a part-time finance person.

Alice Staples spoke about the Library. She said that the Scribner Trustees do not want mediation, they are prepared to go to court. The Trustees are asking the judge to tell them what the Scribner Will says. The Selectmen asked TA Branscombe to write a letter on behalf of the Selectmen to the Scribner Trustees, with a copy to the Library Trustees and the Attorney General's office. Ms Staples said that they are exploring the Mill buildings and looking at the old school as possible sites for a new library. A discussion followed regarding possibly buying the old school building on School St.

150th Committee – Will need to find out if you have to be a voter to be on a town committee. Decided to table this topic until the next meeting.

4th of July Committee – Much discussion regarding if the money collected should be turned over to the town or if the Committee needs to be a 501C3. The Board asked the Town Administrator to send the committee a letter. Need to talk with legal about this. There is a need now however to sign contract with Atlas for the fireworks for next year. Decided to table until the next meeting.

The Selectmen decided to charge the School Board \$100 for renting the voting machine on October 1st.

NON-PUBLIC under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) – Chairman Stewart called for a Roll Call vote to enter into Non-Public Session at 10:33 AM. Phil Preston, Normand DeWolfe, Jeanette I. Stewart all present. TA Branscombe and Tim Paquette, Public Works Director, also present.

Chairman Stewart moved to seal minutes of Non-Public session. DeWolfe seconded

Phil Preston motioned to exit Non-Public at 11:07 AM. DeWolfe seconded All in favor.

Public session reconvened at 11:08 AM. Selectmen talked with Tim Paquette regarding the culvert on North Ashland Road. Mr. Paquette said that his department can not do the work with his equipment so will have Don Latulippe do it.

There being no other business, Chairman Stewart moved to adjourn at 11:20 AM. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Crowell
9-17-13