

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
WORKSESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 23 2014 8:00 AM**

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 8:00 am with a roll call. Normand DeWolfe, Jeanette I. Stewart, Phil Preston present.

Others Present: TA Branscombe, Pat Crowell, Brenda Paquette, David Ruell

OLD BUSINESS

Finalization of Warrant and Budget

After some discussion, Chairman Stewart motioned to recommend Warrant article #12. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor 3-0.

Brenda Paquette spoke about the Water & Sewer Articles #23 & #25. She recommended that the Board not agree because the money should come out of user fees. Michelle Clark, Dept. of Revenue, agrees. Stewart mentioned that the Budget Committee had many questions so they did not recommend it. Paquette said that the articles should not say "raise and appropriate". Anne Abear will amend them at the Deliberative Session on February 1st. Stewart moved to not recommend Article #23. Preston had some questions. Preston seconded. All in favor 3-0. Stewart moved to not recommend Article #25. Preston seconded. All in favor 3-0.

Stewart moved to change the Finance Officer's salary to \$36,040. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor 3-0.

DeWolfe moved to amend the Highways and Streets Improvements to \$47,955. Stewart seconded. All in favor 3-0.

DeWolfe moved to amend the debt service for the Highway Bond to zero dollars. Stewart seconded. All in favor 3-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Stewart mentioned that Sue Wood from the Bread & Butter Restaurant asked the Board of Selectmen for permission to serve wine on the outside deck. Stewart moved to allow Bread & Butter Restaurant to serve wine on their outside deck. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor 3-0. A letter needs to be sent to the NH Liquor Commission.

Stewart asked about the letter to the Attorney General's office from the Trustees of the Trust Fund. The letter says that the Town only sent a portion of the money from Article #5 for Road Improvements. Paquette explained that some of the money from this article had been spent on West St. improvements so the balance was sent to the Trustees. Tom Peters, Trustee, said that

this had never been done before. All agreed that in the future the best practice would be to send all the money to the Trustees.

Branscome mentioned a letter to Ron Boyce. He said that Phil Preston helped him write the letter. Stewart said she would like to change some of the wording in the letter. Branscome will make the change and the Selectmen will need to come in and sign.

There will be two public hearings on February 12th at 7PM regarding the article for the transportation fund and the Water & Sewer articles. Stewart asked Patsy Tucker she could be there to explain the \$5 fee for the transportation fund.

Branscome said that Monday is the last day to get the signatures on the warrant for the school. David Ruell will do the Certification and let the school board know that they need to come in to sign.

Tucker asked Paquette where she got the numbers for the tax impact. Paquette answered from the MS-1.

Stewart mentioned that the Deliberative Session is next Saturday, Feb. 1, 2014 with a meeting afterwards. February 3rd is the next Selectmen's meeting. Branscome said that Whitley, from the lawyer's office will be at the Deliberative Session.

There being no further business, Stewart moved to adjourn at 8:38 AM. Preston seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Crowell
1-27-14