

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2014
TOWN OFFICE
8:30 AM**

MINUTES

Chairman Stewart called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM with a roll call. Normand DeWolfe, Jeanette I. Stewart present. Phil Preston arrived at 8:33 AM.

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

OLD BUSINESS

The Town Administrator updated the Board of Selectmen on the following items:

1) Time Warner Cable- The Public Hearing will be held at 6:30 pm on April 7th at the School Cafeteria. Branscombe will invite Shelley Wichenbach from Time Warner Cable to be there for any questions from the public.

2) Hazard Mitigation Plan – The plan has been finished. There are some items in the plan that need to be addressed such as possible flooding on Thompson Street.

3) Certified Computer Solutions – Branscombe mentioned that he had been asked to look around for other vendors. He said that he will ask Mike LaVallee from Certified Computer Solutions to come in and speak with the board and Mark Scarano, (budget committee) to explain what it is that they do. Branscombe said that the Police Department has some issues with the “cloud” and Mr. LaVallee will speak about that also.

4) There are several pieces of equipment that have broken down just over the last few weeks. The one ton truck has been fixed. There was a problem with the engine and it was replaced under warranty. Chairman Stewart asked if there was enough work for a full time mechanic and if he is busy 40 hours a week. Branscombe will ask Tim Paquette if he can answer that question. DeWolfe asked about the compactor at the transfer station. Branscombe said that it is pretty old and any repairs will be expensive.

NEW BUSINESS

Election results-Budget Impact – The default budget was voted in. Brenda Paquette will need to print out the budget. Brenda said that she will work on it and it will be available this week. The Building Inspector Jim VanValkenburgh has said that he needs to get paid more because of the mileage to and from work. Also, the new Welfare Director, Suzanne McCormack, will not be happy either. Branscombe said that he and Brenda will work on the budget this afternoon and discuss it with the board at a later date.

Right to Know Law-Procedures for request – Branscombe gave the board copies of a new form and procedures for the Board to look at. The Board will vote on this at the next meeting with the new members of the board.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Petitioned Warrant Article 27 – Article 27 passed. However, this is not binding on the Board of Selectmen. If it is left as it is, the lawyer is suggesting an injunction. He said that you can't allow the electric department to dictate what might happen at future town meetings. The Chairman said to talk about this with the five man board. She also asked if the Mechanic Street article passed. Branscombe said that it did, but it is also not binding.

Town's Finances – Branscombe told the board that as of yesterday the town had roughly \$943 thousand in the bank. There was discussion regarding the school payments that are current and how much of that \$943 thousand that we need to pay the schools until the taxes come in. Preston asked about the time limit for a special meeting regarding the default budget. The Chairman asked Branscombe to check and see if there is a time limit. Preston mentioned that the CIP Committee may be out of touch because they have said that the departments need to put money away but the voters in the town don't agree. DeWolfe would like to see a revenue report.

Branscombe mentioned the JunkYard license from the state. The Chairman said that she needs to inspect Buskey's this month.

Branscombe said that the agenda for March 17th will include the re-organization of the Board and restructuring the committees.

DeWolfe asked about increasing fees at the Campground and what other fees could be increased. The Campground fees were increased about two years ago and can not be increased this year. Preston asked about the fees at the Park & Rec department.

There being no further business, Stewart motioned to adjourn at 9:14 AM. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Crowell
3-13-14