

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 5, 2014
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 with a roll call. Jeanette Stewart, Steve Felton, Norm DeWolfe present. Preston notified Board he will be about an hour late. Newton absent with notice.

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

Phil Bodwell, our assessor from CNP, explained assessing in Ashland. He explained the tax card, land values and building values. He recommended that in the future Ashland should put the assessment records on line and also digital mapping. He also explained abatements.

Stacy Luke from the Conservation Commission explained Natural Resource Inventory. She said that Jeff Littleton gave a quote of about \$8100 for an NRI. She said that they have applied for grants. She mentioned that they are looking for volunteers to do river monitoring for Squam River.

APPROVALS

Minutes of April 7: Felton moved to approve as written. DeWolfe seconded. Stewart abstained because she was not at the meeting. All in favor 2-0-1

Minutes of April 7 Non-Public: Felton moved to approve as written. DeWolfe seconded. Stewart abstained All in favor 2-0-1

Minutes of April 21 – Stewart moved to approve with corrections. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor 3-0

Minutes of April 21 Non-Public – Felton moved to approve as written. Stewart seconded. All in favor 3-0

Minutes of April 29 – Stewart moved to approve with corrections. Felton seconded. All in favor 3-0

The Selectmen signed three Intent to Cut applications and a few appointments.

Stewart moved to appoint Devin Anderson to the Joint Loss Committee. Felton seconded. All in favor 3-0

Stewart moved to appoint Cheryl Cox as a full time member of the Planning Board and Miriam Brown an alternate to the Planning Board. Felton seconded. All in favor 3-0

Felton moved to approve an abatement for Map/Lot #017-005-009. Stewart seconded. All in favor 3-0

OLD BUSINESS

a) American Legion Parking Proposal - TA Branscombe said that it was an “emphatic NO”.

- b) Mission Statement** - Fran Newton is absent and will bring the Board up to date when she returns.
- c) Welfare Assistant** – After some discussion the Board decided that the Welfare Deputy, TA Branscombe will be responsible for two weeks out of the month and that the Welfare Assistant, Pat Crowell will be there the other two weeks.
- d) Beach Program 2014** – Jim Gleich, Park and Rec Director spoke about the program. The Board had decided to eliminate the Lifeguards. Stewart is opposed to this. Much discussion regarding fees, the hours that the beach will be open and lifeguards. Phil Preston arrived at 8:10 PM and joined in the discussion. It was decided that the beach would be open with gatekeepers to collect fees, run the concession and patrol the beach. The concession will be open from 11 – 3PM. TA Branscombe said that the Resident Beach pass could be obtained at the Town Office and the Non-Resident pass will be available at the beach.
- e) Fire Dept Copier Lease** – The Board decided not to have a Service Contract for the old copier.
- f) Board of Selectmen Liaisons** – Stewart agreed with Felton saying that Liaisons might not be needed for all committees. Those other committees should be invited to the Board meetings to discuss what they are doing.
- g) Warrant Article #27** – On April 28th a letter was sent to the Electric Commissioners. This Board has no plans to sell these assets.
- h) Default Budget Update** – The DRA said that they are looking only at the bottom line. The Town is waiting for a written response. Going forward the Board will sign the default budget.

NEW BUSINESS

- a) Mill Pond Hydroelectric site** – James World who owns the site is spoke about the damn. They produce power which is sold to the Town. He needs access under the railroad bridge to install a new turbine. He will have an application to dredge from the State. He showed several pictures of the area in question. DeWolfe said that he has visited the site in question.
- b) Furnace Room Bulkhead Repairs** – The Board decided that TA Branscombe should get estimates.
- c) Emergency Management Director** – Stewart moved to re-appoint Lee Nichols as the Interim Director. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor 4-0..

Town Administrator's Report – Branscombe read his report highlighting what has transpired in the town over the past month.

Selectboard Items

DeWolfe said that they will be meeting with Patsy Tucker, Tax Collector, on May 14th at 8 AM to discuss late taxes.

He mentioned that he attended the Knowing the Territory seminar and it was very informative.

Computer Proposal – The contract will be from June 1st through December 31st. The Police Department is all set. Felton asked if proposals were gotten from other vendors. TA Branscombe said that in October would be the best time to do that. Preston moved to accept the contract from Certified Computer Solutions. Stewart seconded. Felton Abstained. All in favor 3-0-1.

Stewart would like the Building Inspector, the Health Inspector, and Plumbing Inspector to give the Board regular reports.

Evaluations – TA Branscombe said that they will be done on a regular basis in August.

Felton said that at their worksession the Board should review the Town’s financial situation. He mentioned that they need to put together a calendar for visits from the committees. He also mentioned that he talked with BMSI and we can access the budget in Excel. BMSI can export into Excel. The audit should be available next week. He mentioned the “Chain of Command”. Issues should be brought to the attention of the Town Administrator.

Stewart moved to appoint Kendal B Hughes to the Housing Standards Board. Felton seconded. All in favor 4-0.

Stewart moved to appoint Steve Jaquith as Memorial Park Trustee. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor 4-0

Zoning Board has openings for one Alternate and one Full member.

CIP Committee has two openings.

Planning has an opening for one Alternate.

DeWolfe mentioned that we need a Snow and Ice Policy. Tim Paquette said that they don’t have a written one but that he will do so.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lee Nichols spoke about Emergency Management having its own 911 line. He will set up a time with Fairpoint.

Ann Barney spoke about having no lifeguards at the beach. She said that the town voted to have lifeguards. She asked that the Board reconsider their decision. The Chairman said that the Board will take her statement under advisement. Preston said that he has noticed that most beaches in the area do not have lifeguards. Lee Nichols asked about the liability to the town. Our insurance carrier has said that as long as there is a sign stating that there are no lifeguards, then the town is covered. Mr. Marsh also asked about liability. Stewart said that Primex recommended two lifeguards. The Chairman said that all were valid points and will be on the next agenda. Sandra Coleman said that she is also in favor of lifeguards at the beach. Preston asked that a letter be put together and the matter will be discussed the first meeting in June.

Jamie Lyford asked several questions regarding the budget, raises, and mileage reimbursement.

There being no further business, Chairman DeWolfe moved to go into Non-Public pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) with a roll call vote. Felton seconded. All in favor 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Crowell
5-12-14