

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
WORK SESSION
MONDAY, MAY 19, 2014
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 with a roll call. Phil Preston, Fran Newton, Steve Felton, Jeanette Stewart, Norm DeWolfe.

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

Tamar Roberts from Roberts & Greene, the town's auditors, is here to explain the audit. She talked about the numbers and how they were arrived at. The Board had several questions for her. One question was can the audit be done earlier next year? She said that she hopes to be done earlier that last year. DRA has a copy of the report.

OLD BUSINESS

- a) Mission Statement – Newton spoke. Preston and Newton were working on it. They disagreed on the wording. DeWolfe thinks the wording is too verbose. There was much discussion and the consensus of the board was to keep working on it and bring it up at the next meeting.
- b) Beach Program 2014 – The Board looked at some comparisons provided by the Park and Rec Director, Jim Gleich. They asked Gleich to come up to the table to explain. The Board needs more information which Gleich will supply at the next meeting on June 2nd.
- c) Emergency Management Director – At the last meeting the Board appointed Lee Nichols as temporary director. Branscombe resigned as deputy a little while ago. Chief Heath is interested in being Director. After some discussion, Felton moved to have Steve Heath and Lee Nichols co-directors. Newton seconded. All in favor.
- d) Furnace Room Bulkhead Repairs – Branscombe explained that he got two estimates. They were from Paul Bellamy and Mark Vasselian. After looking at the estimates, Felton moved to accept the estimate from Mark Vasselian awarding him the job. Newton seconded. All in favor.
- e) Economic Development Committee – There are five positions available. Kendall B. Hughes is interested. Felton is liaison to the committee. There are several people interested and letters of interest are encouraged. Newton motioned to appoint Cheryl Cox to the Economic Development Committee. Felton seconded. All in favor. Felton also mentioned that Sue MacLeod would be a good addition to the committee.
- f) Time Warner Cable – Branscombe said that the Town should sign the contract and not hold it up until Blue Sky Drive can be done. There are only four homes on that street. Stewart motioned to accept the Time Warner Cable contract for seven years effective May 19, 2014. Preston seconded. All in favor. The Board signed the three copies of the contract.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Northern Pass – Walter Johnson, Town Administrator in Holderness sent an email asking for any cooperative effort between towns to oppose project. Preston attended a meeting concerning Northern Pass project. He urged the Board to listen to the audio listed below.

Northern Pass; Plymouth; May 4, 1014

www.briantilton.com/NorthernPass.html

1. Northern Pass (top line)
2. Pull-down menu: Plymouth Meeting, 5/4/2014

Preston said that there will be more meetings and hearings and that the first step is to make people aware. Newton said that we need to monitor the situation.

- b) Unanticipated Money – Branscombe told the Board that they need to acknowledge receipt of some grant money. Newton motioned to accept \$1269 from Walmart for the Police Department to purchase iPads. Stewart seconded. All in favor. Preston motioned to accept \$3500 from Meredith Village Savings Bank for the Community Garden. Felton seconded. All in favor.
- c) Options available to reduce burden on tax payers – The Board explored several ways to reduce property taxes. They discussed outsourcing, employee contributions to insurance, retiree contributions to health insurance, and sharing resources with other towns. Stewart said that the Town needs to find revenue.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS

- a) BMSI – Felton updated the Board on what he has learned in talking with BMSI. He said that reports can be exported to EXCEL format. The Chairman said that he felt that they weren't as user friendly. Felton will check with BMSI to see if they can be friendlier.
- b) Business Cards – Consensus of the Board to have a more consistent format.
- c) Mainstay Technologies – Felton encouraged the Board to find other options besides CCS for the Town's computer needs. He would like to get other bids for next years needs. He mentioned Mainstay Technologies. Branscombe said that Mainstay is an MRI company (Don Jutton) and he says that they are about 20% higher overall. The Board would like to get other proposals.
- d) Monthly Reports - Stewart asked if the Board could get reports from the Building Inspector, the Plumbing Inspector, and the Health Inspector. She said that the Plumbing Inspector has not picked up any paperwork in the office and we don't know if the inspections are getting done. Newton is also the Health Inspector and she said that most of what she does is not for public knowledge. Stewart also would like the monthly reports to start again but maybe they could be incorporated in the Town Administrators report. She asked Branscombe when evaluations will be done. He said that they will be completed in August and that there is a performance evaluation template.

Branscombe asked Tim Paquette to explain what he wants to do on Leavitt Hill. Paquette said that there is some drainage on that road that needs to be addressed. Now would be the time to do that because the contractor will be repaving that road. The Board asked Paquette to get an estimate from M. Latullipe for the catch basins. June 1st is the approximate start time.

e) Appointments – DeWolfe said that there are two people interested in the CIP committee. Newton motioned to appoint Kendall B. Hughes to the CIP committee. Felton seconded. All in favor. DeWolfe mentioned that Ingrid Heidenreich is also interested. The Board decided to put that on hold for the moment.

DeWolfe said that he had received several phone calls regarding the logging that is being done on Brogan Road off Sanborn Road. Branscombe explained that if damage is done to the road, the loggers will be held responsible. Newton said that she was told that the logging trucks are leaking diesel fuel and that could impact the wells in the area. DeWolfe asked Paquette if he has been out to Sanborn Road. Paquette said that he has taken pictures. Preston said that the road is getting broken up. DES has not come out as yet. The Conservation Commission has been made aware of the situation.

Newton motioned to sign the Warrant to collect the property taxes. Felton seconded. All in favor.

There was a brief discussion regarding keys to the town office. It was decided that the fewer people who had keys the better.

Stewart mentioned that the meeting on Wednesday will take place at the Commerce Properties location with John Glidden, owner. Chief Heath will be there to tour the mill with the Board.

Felton asked that in the future the Town Administrator should have a calendar of where he will be.

Stewart mentioned the Joint Loss Committee meeting on Thursday will be at the Booster Club to do an inspection of that facility. She also reminded the committee of the meeting on the 29th with the Police Chief.

Felton reported on what's going on with the CIP committee.

DeWolfe said that Sherri Downing will put flags in the cemeteries.

The Board will need to revisit the old skateboard ordinance.

Felton asked about the financial report dated 5-13-14. He said that it looks like some lines are going to be overspent. Tax bills will be going out this week. The Board will keep an eye on spending and the budget.

There being no further business, Newton motioned to adjourn at 9:53 pm. Felton seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Crowell
5-26-14