

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 2014
TOWN OFFICE
9:00 AM**

MINUTES

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM with a roll call. Jeanette I. Stewart, Fran Newton, Steve Felton, Phil Preston, Normand DeWolfe.

Also Present: Bill Douglas and Dave Sircle from Utility Partners

Others Present: Paul Branscombe, Pat Crowell, Tim Paquette, & members of the public

The Chairman explained that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss “outsourcing” the Public Works Department with Utility Partners. He introduced Bill Douglas and Dave Circle.

Mr. Douglas spoke about Utility Partners. He said that they have been in business since 1994. Mostly operate water and waste water systems in eight states with 587 employees. Their office in New Hampshire is in Claremont. He said that when they take over, employees do not lose their jobs. They match salaries, health insurance, life insurance, and they offer a 401K plan for retirement. They also honor a Union shop. Mr. Douglas answered some questions. They don't have any public works at this time in New Hampshire but are speaking with a few communities. In Littleton they currently assist in the Winter with snowplowing. Contracts are annual, however there is a clause in the contract to re-negotiate. They assume the risk and liability for equipment. We could lease our equipment to them. He said in regard to scheduling, they would not look to change anything, just enhance and improve. Most services are routine in regards to grading, catch basins, culverts and crack sealing. Each job is different. Purchase of salt and sand would not be covered, it would still be the responsibility of the Town. Tim Paquette asked about the Transfer Station. Mr. Douglas said that they would be responsible for that also. Any revenue will go to the Town. They currently have 9 transfer stations. The Town would maintain the buildings and heat them also. We would get reports on a monthly, quarterly, and yearly basis. Mr. Douglas would like to have a copy of our current budget. He will give us a list of their clients with contacts and phone numbers. The Board asked Branscombe to provide him with the budget and an equipment list. If one is needed, they would be willing to come to a Public Hearing. The Board decided to move forward.

There being no further business, Stewart moved to adjourn at 9:59 AM. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Crowell
6-26-14