

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

MINUTES

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

Others Present: Pat Crowell and members of the Public.

APPROVALS

Minutes of June 2: Newton moved to approve as amended. Felton seconded. All in favor 4-0

Minutes of June 10 : Preston moved to approve as written. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor 4-0

Minutes of June 16: Newton moved to approve as amended. Felton seconded. All in favor 4-0

Minutes of June 26: Newton moved to approve as amended. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor 5-0

Signature File: Intent to Cut for 228 Highland St. The Chairman said that the Conservation Commission meets Wednesday and will wait until the worksession to sign the Intent.

OLD BUSINESS

a) PA-28 Inventory of Taxable Property Form for 2015 – Phil Bodwell, the assessor had some comments that the Chairman read. The assessor did not recommend that the Town use the form. Newton said that it seemed to be more trouble. Felton moved to not use the PA form in 2015 because of Patsy Tucker and Phil Bodwell’s recommendation. Newton seconded. All in favor 4-0

b) Performance Evaluation form – Newton moves to approve using the “second” performance evaluation using the measurement of 1-5. Felton seconded. All in favor 4-0

c) Concerned Citizen Log update – Felton said that discussion of the log should be at the second meeting of the month. The Chairman wanted to discuss the last item on the log which was the rocks in Owl Brook Road. The Chairman asked Mr. Salvoni to speak on the subject. Mr. Salvoni brought a box of rocks that he had collected from the road and gave each board member one. He said that these rocks are dangerous to anyone walking or riding bikes on the road as well as the rocks getting in the wheel wells of cars and motorcycles have a hard time trying to maneuver through them. Owl Brook Road is a scenic road and he says that it is not scenic any more. The Chairman asked Tim Paquette what can be done about it. Paquette explained that the rocks are put down in mud season. He said that he can spread gravel but he needs to finish the ditching first, will be at least a couple of weeks. Some discussion continued. Mr. Salvoni brought up the subject of the white rocks in front of his house that are in the street. He says that he put them there to slow people down. He said that the road keeps getting wider over the years. After much discussion, the Chairman said that the board acknowledges the problems and will have further discussion about this in the future.

d) Ashland Properties - No update. The Town Administrator will ask Primex to visit.

e) **GIS Mapping** – The Chairman explained that the Water & Sewer Dept. has undertaken GIS mapping of their systems. They have asked the Town if it wants to map catch basins, culverts and eventually tax maps at a reasonable price. The Board would like to know if other towns have done this and speak to them. It will be about two months before the mapping will begin. The fire chief, Steve Heath said that all hydrants are accurately located now.

NEW BUSINESS

a) **Code of Ethics – Conflict of Interest** – The Chairman said that the Board needs to adopt these. It needs to be simple. Newton said that she will work on it, and DeWolfe will help. It will be brought up at the work session.

b) **Ordinances/Policies** – DeWolfe mentioned that some of these need to be updated. Some require Town Meeting approval or Warrant Articles. Newton said that there is a deadline to get any on the warrant. The Town Administrator will compile more ordinances.

c) **Meeting with Holderness Selectmen** – DeWolfe went to the meeting over in Holderness with the Selectmen. He said that Holderness has no interest in working with Ashland. There are some departments in the town that already share services and equipment.

d) **NHMA 2015/2016 Legislative Policy Process** – The Chairman offered to be the delegate from the Town. There was a question about having Jeanne Forrester come to a meeting to explain the process. Preston disagrees because this time of year is political season and not appropriate. Felton asked if we want to avail ourselves of their expertise. Preston said again that they are candidates. There should be no campaigning at the meeting. DeWolfe, Newton, and Felton are fine with elected officials coming to the meetings but not candidates. Further discussion is needed.

e) **PWD – Transfer Station shingle contract** – Preston mentioned that he doesn't like the terms of the contract. Paquette mentioned that this is not a new company and this is the same price as last year. The company, CPRC Group just wants a contract this year. After some discussion, Newton moved to accept the CPRC Group contract. Felton seconded. In favor 3-0. Preston passed.

Selectboard Items

EOP – The Emergency Manual has been updated. The last time this was done was a few years ago. Fire Chief Heath said that the Selectmen need to sign. Since the Board has not seen this, they will look it over and come into the office to sign. Newton did want to let Steve know that her name was misspelled.

Review of Financials – Felton said that the financials should be part of the worksession along with the Citizen Complaint Log.

Smith Hill Road – The Chairman mentioned that they received an estimate for Smith Hill Road for \$18,000 which does not include piping and paving.

Police Detail – Jeff MacDonald still owes the town from a year ago \$820. He paid \$700 of the bill last year. The Board decided to take Mr. MacDonald to small claims court. Preston not sure.

Public Comments

Ann Lamson commented that the lifeguards are doing a great job. She asked about the raft. DeWolfe said that there was no firm answer. The insurance company said to get rid of it.

Carol Fucarile asked when a decision could be made about Smith Hill Road. She mentioned that it is an emergency. DeWolfe said that the town will get other estimates and will look at alternate ways to address the situation temporarily. It's not a quick fix. Paquette suggested that an engineer look at it. Felton asked Paquette what the shorter term solution would be. Paquette said that there is none.

Kendall L. Hughes said that the negotiating team will start negotiations on August 1st and wanted to know what is going on with Utility Partners taking over the Public Works Dept. DeWolfe said that they are in the process of talking with Utility Partners and no decision has been made. Mr. Hughes also asked why it took two men to go over to Bridgewater to take metal over. Paquette explained that the metal is heavy and they need to unload the truck. Mr. Hughes said that the sidewalk between Meredith Village Savings Bank and Cottage St is unusable because of brush growing over it, also brush needs to be cut on Thompson Street on both sides. He also had a complaint about a catch basin on Thompson Street. Paquette said that roadside mowing will start this week and will look at those areas. Preston said that it should be poisoned in the fall and not cut. Mr. Hughes said that there is a sign by where the Jackmans used to live that is obscured. Paquette said that he will investigate.

There being no further business, Chairman DeWolfe moved to go into Non-Public pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (c) with a roll call vote, at 8:45 PM Felton seconded. All in favor 4-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Crowell
7-10-14