

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORK SESSION
MONDAY AUGUST 18, 2014
ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
7:00 PM**

MINUTES

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 7:01 with a roll call. Phil Preston, Jeanette Stewart, Normand DeWolfe, Steve Felton, Fran Newton.

Others Present: Pat Crowell and members of the Public.

OLD BUSINESS

Code of Ethics- Preston and Stewart reworked what Newton had done to make it so that it was a smaller version. Preston said that he wanted to eliminate disclosure and federal and state law on rights. The 1986 version needs to be replaced. After some discussion, Felton moved to approve the Code of Ethics written by Newton taking out paragraph 4.1 (conflict of interest). DeWolfe seconded. All in favor 4-1. Preston opposed. Newton moved to replace the old Ethics Policy with the newly amended one. Felton seconded. All in favor 4-1. Preston pointed out that the new policy refers to conflict of interest. Newton said that she will remove those points referring to conflict of interest. Preston moved to accept the new Code of Ethics as amended. Felton seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Ashland Properties – DeWolfe read letter that will be delivered by the Sheriff to the person who owns Ashland Properties.

IT Exhibit – Still waiting for information from Lakes Region Computer and Felton will be meeting with our current company, CCS.

Campground Trailer – DeWolfe said that there were no bids received and that the trailer will be re-advertised. He also reminded the Board that the Town can only collect storage and care fees.

Financial Review – DeWolfe read the totals for Payroll, Accounts Payable, and Welfare. He also said that so far the Town has collected 92.5% of taxes. Any other topics regarding financials DeWolfe would like to talk about later.

Priority Table – Felton mentioned that the title “Ashland Board of Select Tax Reduction Ideas” needs to change. He also said that it needs to be expanded to include all of the Boards priorities.

NEW BUSINESS

Performance Evaluations – Evaluations are to be completed by the end of August. Preston asked when and how the Town Administrator’s evaluation will be done. DeWolfe said that the Board members can each do one for Branscombe and then they will have a meeting with him to discuss.

2015 Department Budgets – DeWolfe said that Branscombe is meeting with the Department Heads to discuss their budgets. Selectmen will also meet with the Department Heads. Stewart wants to have all this done by September 15th.

School Board Vacancy – DeWolfe stated that he received a packet from the School Board. They were unable to select one person from three candidates. In cases like this, the task falls to the Board of Selectmen to choose. Preston said that this is the last thing that the Board should have to get involved with. He said that he has another person in mind and has talked to this person about being on the School Board. DeWolfe has checked with legal services at the NHMA and the Selectmen need to appoint someone. Stewart said that it would not be fair to the three that applied if the Selectmen choose someone else. After much discussion, Preston moved to accept additional persons to review and make decision within the next two weeks. No second, motion failed. Stewart moved to nominate Hillary Moore to the School Board. No second. Motion failed. Felton asked if the Board could talk with the candidates. Two of the candidates were in the audience and were asked to come up to the table. Mardean Badger and Hillary Moore were asked a few questions each. After listening to them, Stewart moved to appoint Hillary Moore to the School Committee. DeWolfe seconded. Newton expressed concern. Stewart said that because of her friendship with Badger, she should step down. Newton said that she feels that she can be objective, open, and clear. Preston agreed. All in favor 2-2. Preston abstained. Newton moved to appoint Mardean Badger to the School Board. Felton seconded. All in favor 3-1

Warrant Articles – DeWolfe said that any articles will hopefully be submitted well in advance.

TAP Grant – DeWolfe explained there is 5.5 million dollars available for transportation alternatives. He thanked Joe Mazzone & Tim Paquette for putting some numbers together. A letter of interest is the first step, followed by a proposal. The grant would need a 20% match and voter approval.

Ashland HEAL Bike-Ped Committee – Newton thanked Joe Mazzone for all his hard work. He has put together at least 15 bikes and 1 scooter so far, getting parts and old bikes from the transfer station.

Primex Safety Visit – DeWolfe said that Primex visited the Town buildings looking for any safety issues. Some issues were that batteries were needed in Exit signs and also boiler pressure valves need stickers. Travelers Insurance is coming this week to inspect the boilers throughout the buildings. Also, material data sheet binders should be in every building.

Circle Triathlon – Sunday of Labor Day weekend will be the day of the triathlon. Volunteers from Ashland would be appreciated. River Street will be closed. Newton said that bags will be given out and anything that the Town has to put into the bags would be welcome.

Newton mentioned that she has met with Jeannie Forrester and mentioned Ashland Properties to her as far as economic development is concerned. Forrester would like to make an appointment to walk around the mill property.

Stewart raised concerns regarding the Legal line and the Postage line in the budget. The letters sent recently to Lyford and Salvoni should not have been sent Certified. She thanked Tim Paquette for putting the plaques on the benches out front.

DeWolfe wanted to talk about the Financials. He said that to date 62% of the budget has been spent. Stewart said that any questions for legal information should go to the lawyers at NH Municipal Association. She wanted to make sure that the Town Administrator would call them before talking with the Town's legal. DeWolfe had a question and had called NHMA this morning. Felton said that the Town Administrator should ask the department heads to look at projections. In regard to the Spending Freeze, which is still in place, the feeling of the Board is "if you don't need it – don't buy it". The Town Administrator should talk to the department heads.

Stewart asked if the rocks had been removed in front of Salvoni's house. DeWolfe asked each Board member to go to Owl Brook Road and give their own opinion. He said that the rocks had been "moved" but were they out of the established roadway? Are the rocks still in the right-of-way?

Felton moved to go into Non-Public pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) regarding compensation of an employee at 8:55 pm. Stewart seconded. The Board decided to take a 5 minute break.

Next meeting scheduled for September 2, 2014 @ 7:00 pm in the School Cafeteria

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Crowell
8-20-14