

ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORK SESSION
MONDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2014
ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY
7:00 pm

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

Chairman DeWolfe announced that there had been four bids for the trailer and associated items. Newton motioned to accept the highest bid of \$3500. Felton seconded. All in favor. Discussion continued as to the next step to take to recover some of the money that is owed. Newton motioned to take legal action in court to recoup fees to include legal fees. Felton seconded. All in favor.

Town Administrator Branscombe read the total for Payroll \$15,474.47 and Accounts Payable \$57,958.83.

OLD BUSINESS

Newton reported that a letter of support was received from the Planning Board in support of the TAP Grant. The grant is an 80/20 match and would rebuild sidewalks from the Mobil Station to Gordon Street and on Riverside Drive. A letter of support is needed from the Selectmen and Newton will draft one. Most of the sidewalks are not ADA compliant. There is a possibility of partnering with the new Dollar General Store because they will be rebuilding the sidewalk in front of their property.

Branscombe explained about the last item that was added to the Citizen Log. That case has been resolved.

The Safety Report from PRIMEX has been distributed to the departments that had issues. The deadline to have these issues fixed is October 31st. The Town Office needed only shields over the lights in the vault room, which have been installed. Branscombe will follow-up with the other departments.

Newton will update the Priority Table. The most recent is the addition of Utility Partners doing the vehicle inventory. Felton asked about the letter which was delivered to Scott Heath (Ashland Properties) by the Merrimack County Sheriff's Office. DeWolfe said that they need to follow the timeline on the RSA to the tee. Preston asked when Newton would be meeting with Jeannie Forrester. The meeting will be October 24th at 8 am to walk around the Mill properties.

Tim Paquette spoke about the digital radios which he would like to purchase this year. Ossipee Mountain Electronics has used radios (analog) that are 12 years old which would be about \$450. He has a quote from them for \$3900 including programming and installation for the digital ones. He has been offered funds from the Joint Loss (Safety) Committee and from Emergency Management. Paquette said that he would have the money for the radios if he didn't do crack sealing. Preston asked what roads would need to be done and what roads would not. Paquette said that he feels that North Ashland Road would be a priority. Ossipee Mountain would also take the existing analogs in trade. Felton said that they will be able to better decide when the budget discussions are finalized.

NEW BUSINESS

Branscombe said that there are CDBG grant possibilities. The deadline is October 31st. Branscombe will contact them and will be added to the Priority Table.

DeWolfe said that the Board has met with several departments to go over their budgets and will meet again on Friday @ 7am to finalize.

Branscombe said that Neil Smith of the Union would like to do a modification petition to allow the Administrative Assistant to be a member of the Union. Since she assists with Welfare on Tuesday nights, the Board would like to find out if there might be a conflict.

Sue MacLeod, chairman of the Planning Board, has asked Paul Sanderson about creating a line in the budget for money received to go into a separate account per RSA 673:16. Money should not go into the General Fund. The Board said that it should start in 2015 Budget. Preston moved to create a line in the budget for fees to be held in a separate, nonlapsing account, and not commingled with other municipal funds. Newton seconded. All in favor. DeWolfe also commented that the \$10,000 Warrant Article for the Master Plan, should be encumbered at the end of year.

DeWolfe said that Lakes Region Planning Commission (LRPC) has an opening for an Ashland commissioner. The Planning Board will take care of this. He asked Branscombe to send a letter to LRPC to let them know we are taking care of this. Newton will follow up with the Planning Board.

Branscombe reported that in 1976 the Town was given money for a few projects including the raft at the Beach. When the representative from NHDRED came to inspect this year (every 5 years) he said that the raft was a concern. It was reported to him that the raft was taken out because it was in need of repair and also our insurance carrier recommended it be taken out due to safety concerns.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS

Newton said that there are Concerned Citizen Complaint forms and Housing Standard forms. She would like to see a Code Enforcement complaint form. All agreed.

DeWolfe said that about 17% of the voters in Ashland came out to vote. Also, asked about the Official Seal of the Town of Ashland, and asked about the Policy for the Boards to use it for correspondence or could they come in and ask for Town letterhead? The Town Administrator said that they are welcome to come in and get the Town's letterhead.

DeWolfe said that personal cell phone numbers of the chairman of the committees should not be given out. A message should be taken and then given to the chairs.

DeWolfe announced that there are openings on the Conservation Commission, Economic Development, Budget Committee, Zoning Board, and Planning Board.

DeWolfe asked if a warrant article needed to be done every year to accept the money from the 4th of July Committee. Branscombe said that it probably wasn't necessary.

Felton talked about North Country Economic Development. Is hoping that Ashland can access some grant money for an infrastructure engineering study. Also would encourage businesses to open in the Mill property in the future after it's cleaned up.

Branscombe said that the October 6th meeting of the Board of Selectmen will be held in the school cafeteria.

Newton motioned to go into **Non-Public** pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(a) at 8:17pm. Felton seconded. Roll Call: Steve Felton yes, Fran Newton yes, Normand DeWolfe yes, Phil Preston yes. Also present: Paul Branscombe and Pat Crowell. The Board discussed the payment of Health Insurance to a retired person. Motion to leave Non-Public Session at 8:33 pm and return to **public** session made by Newton and seconded by Felton. All in favor.

DeWolfe asked Tim Paquette to talk about the estimate for the **bridge at Moo Corners**. He said that it is an emergency situation and the funds are in the Capital Reserve to do the bridge now. Felton moved to authorize the emergency repair of the bridge. Newton seconded. All in favor.

Newton motioned to go into **Non-Public** pursuant to RSA 91-A:3II(c) at 8:40pm. Felton seconded. Roll Call: Steve Felton yes, Fran Newton yes, Normand DeWolfe yes, Phil Preston yes. Also present Paul Branscombe and Pat Crowell. Talked about a possible mistake in an employees' direct deposit. After some discussion, Pat Crowell was asked to follow up with the employee. No action was taken by the Board. Motion to leave Non-Public Session at 8:49pm and return to public session made by Newton and seconded by Felton. All in favor.

Felton motioned to go into **Non-Public** pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II(a) at 8:50pm. Newton seconded. Roll Call: Steve Felton yes, Fran Newton yes, Normand DeWolfe yes, Phil Preston yes. Also present: Paul Branscombe and Pat Crowell. Branscombe asked that Pat Crowell, as Human Resources representative, be present. The Board asked about an employee's part time status. The employee explained. The Board decided to have the employee work three days for 8 hours each day and work from home two days until the end of the year. . Motion to leave Non-Public Session at 8:59pm and return to public session made by Preston and seconded by Newton. All in favor.

There being no further business, Preston moved to adjourn at 8:59pm. Newton seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pat Crowell
9-17-14