

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORK SESSION
MONDAY DECEMBER 15, 2014 7:00 PM
ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY**

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

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

Heritage Commission Warrant Article – Sue MacLeod spoke about the importance of having a Heritage Commission. David Ruell said that a lot of projects could be overseen. After much discussion, the Board recommended that Sue speak at the SB2 meeting to promote the warrant article. Newton moved to support the warrant article. Stewart seconded. All in favor 5 -0.

Selectmen Procedures & Protocol – The Chairman explained that the Board will follow the procedures outlined in the packet that the Town Administrator distributed.

OLD BUSINESS

Contracted Services (Utility Partners) – The Chairman said that a decision needs to be made. Newton said that there are some unanswered questions. Preston feels that Utility Partners doesn't want to do business with Ashland. He also said that he is not in favor of the Public Works Dept. being turned over to Utility Partners. DeWolfe said he thinks they are still interested, but bottom line, not worth the effort. Branscombe will draft a letter to Utility Partners and give a copy to the Board.

TAP Grant Warrant Article – Newton said that she has recently gotten information regarding using this money. She has gotten clarification that this money can be used for sidewalks.

HEAL – The Chairman said that the appointments for the committee have expired. Newton will contact the members.

Ashland Beach – Raft – Received letter from the State that says that the raft is obsolete now.

Vacation – Personnel Policy – Patsy Tucker explained that the committee thought it best to keep the old policy in the policy along with the new vacation policy. Preston moved to keep the old policy in addition to the new policy. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor 5-0.

E. Paquette Letter – David Paquette, Ernie's son, asked for a copy of the minutes and a letter denying claim and the good will offer to pay Ernie's health insurance going forward. He has been given the minutes. The Town Administrator will draft a letter which will include the letter from the attorney.

Priority Table – Fran Newton – Newton updated the Board. The Priority Table will be handled by the Town Administrator moving forward.

Citizen Log – Nothing new. Stewart commented that we need to be consistent taking complaints.

Finance Matters – The Board discussed the budget worksheets. They asked Patsy Tucker to research what other Town Clerk/Tax Collectors are paid because if someone were to take over her job, the Board wanted to know if they would get the same salary that she gets. They discussed a stipend line for her to pay her for her many years worked. They also discussed the MS10 and Gatsby Rules. Economic Development will not have any money in their line if the budget goes default. CIP will be OK though. The Chairman distributed some spread sheets regarding what has been spent from this year's budget and what might be left.

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Forum Update – Felton said that the forum is scheduled for January 5th at 7 PM. There will be representatives from the Select board and CIP committee.

Webster Selectman request – Bruce Johnson from Webster asked the Board to put a warrant article in to reform funding for state education. The Board asked Branscombe to check with legal.

GIS Mapping meeting 12/31 – Michelle Roberts will be meeting here on 12/31/14.

Asbestos Removal in Town Hall – Branscombe said that it is scheduled for the first week in January 2015 and will cost \$2900.

Health Insurance contributions – The Chairman said that he had called many towns in the area and asked about their health insurance. Most towns do have their employees contribute something towards their health insurance and don't offer health insurance to retirees.

2015 Draft Warrant Articles – The Board is using the existing Article number's to define the article.

Article 3 – Electric Commissioners – Patsy Tucker will check.

Article 2 – Fire engine 5 year lease. Much discussion regarding whether Engine No. 1 or No. 2 should be the one replaced. Further review is needed.

Article 4 – Mini loader for transfer station. Stewart moved to recommend this article. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor 5-0

Article 5 – Stewart to recommend the \$125,000. Newton seconded. All in favor 5-0

Article 6 – Preston moved to recommend the 4 year lease of Police vehicle. Newton seconded. All in favor 5-0

Article 7 – Preston moved to recommend that the Police Department establish a \$15,000 Capital Reserve Fund to repair/purchase a vehicle. Newton seconded. All in favor. 5-0

Article 8 – Stewart moved to recommend that \$50,000 be put into a Capital Reserve Fund for the Fire Dept. Newton seconded. DeWolfe questioned. There will need to be a discussion with Chief Heath and the CIP committee. Stewart and Newton took back their motion.

Article 9 – Stewart moved to approve \$40,000 in a Capital Reserve Fund for equipment for the Public Works Dept. Preston seconded. In favor 4 – 1. One opposed.

Article 10 – Preston moved to recommend \$60,000 for windows in the town hall. Newton seconded. 4 – 1 One opposed.

Article 11 – DeWolfe moved to approve a Capital Reserve Fund for \$25,000 for all town buildings. Stewart seconded. In favor 4 – 1 One opposed.

Article 12 – Preston moved to approve article for the Board to amend fees. Stewart seconded. All in favor.

Article 13 – Stewart moved to approve the \$5.00 fee for moto vehicles. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

Article 14 – Heritage Commission - discussed earlier.

Article 15 – Newton moved to approve a \$25,000 Capital Reserve Fund for the library. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor 5 -0

Article 16 – Stewart moved to approve \$3,000 for the Bridge House. Preston seconded. All in favor 5 – 0

The Town Administrator asked the Board if the employees could have the day after Christmas off as a Holiday. The Board was in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Preston moved to adjourn at 9:50 PM. Newton seconded. All in favor. 5-0

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Crowell
12/17/14

Next meeting scheduled for January 5, 2015 @ 7:00 pm in the School Library