

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MINUTES, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2015
ASHLAND TOWN OFFICE
8:00 AM**

Normand DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 8:06 am with a roll call: Fran Newton, Jeanette I Stewart, Normand DeWolfe present. Steve Felton excused. Phil Preston will be a little late.

Others Present: Paul Branscombe, Brenda Paquette, Patsy Tucker, Pat Crowell

Branscombe mentioned that yesterday was the last day for petitioned warrant articles and we did not receive articles from Voices against Violence, American Red Cross, CASA, and Tri-County Cap. Genesis and Grafton County Senior Citizens articles need to be voted on.

Newton moved to recommend the Genesis Petitioned Warrant Article. Stewart seconded. All in favor 3-0

Stewart moved to recommend the Grafton County Senior Citizen Petitioned Warrant Article. Newton Seconded. All in favor 3-0

The Chairman still has questions regarding Article #3 for the Fire Engine. He would like to see the tax impact put in the article. There is no tax impact this year but in the remaining years there will be and he said that the voter's need to know that. After some discussion, it was decided that the future year's impact will be part of the article.

Voter's Guide

Newton said that she made some changes to the Voter's Guide. DeWolfe mentioned that the article #'s need to be changed. Everyone needs to agree on the changes that Newton made. Patsy Tucker said that the Voter's Guide should be based on fact not opinions. The Board agreed that Newton's changes should be in the guide. Branscombe will send a copy to David Ruell.

Revenues

Branscombe mentioned that Police Detail needs to be changed per David Ruell. DeWolfe said that the Board has not voted on these items yet. He asked Brenda Paquette to explain water filtration change. She explained the revenue portion of it. Tucker asked Phil Bodwell, the assessor, about the overlay line. He approved the number. On page 3, Birth and Death Certificates line is changed to \$1800. After much discussion, Newton moved to accept the revenue portion as amended. Stewart seconded. All in favor 3 – 0.

Branscombe informed the Board about two Public Hearings. One will be on the 29th of January for an article to change the Board of Selectmen to a 3 person board. The other one will be in February in regard to the fire engine and the \$5 fee for motor vehicles.

Operating Budget

B. Paquette will increase the tax map line to \$10,250 and the Park & Recreation director's salary line. His hours have been changed as of January 1st.

Some discussion regarding the Water and Sewer budget. They will need to notify the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen.

Phil Preston joined the meeting.

Default

Several questions. P Tucker asked why the Exec. Telephone line was \$7200. Paquette explained she wanted to make the default higher. DeWolfe said that actual expense was only \$3400. Newton said that it should be taken on a case by case basis. She mentioned that we can't artificially inflate the numbers. The Election salary should be \$1923 because there is only one election this year. Postage will stay at \$500.

Chief Randall asked about the training line for a new hire to replace Lt. Marren. He asked if that should be in the default budget. DeWolfe said no. The consensus of the board was that it was mandatory and an implied contract and should be part of the default budget. Uniforms line is \$7400. Training should be reduced to \$2961.

Tucker asked about the stipend for the assistant in the General Assistance budget. Should \$2600 be in the default so that someone will be there.

On page 41, Brenda will put in the amounts for Genesis and Grafton County.

There was some discussion regarding last year's 53 weeks figures.

Discussion followed regarding separating the Utilities and Town budgets. There will need to be warrant articles to do that.

Other Business

Stewart asked about the invoice from Mitchell & Associates because we are being billed for questions concerning the Heritage Commission. We are responsible for the Heritage Commission. DeWolfe asked about the fees on the Mitchell invoice for Fairpoint. Branscombe said that we pay a prorated portion with other towns.

Branscombe mentioned that the asbestos on the third floor has been abated.

There being no other business, Stewart moved to adjourn at 10:00 am. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Crowell

1-19-15