

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, AUGUST 17, 2015
ASHLAND FIRE STATION
8:00 AM**

MINUTES

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM with a roll call. Fran Newton, Steve Felton, Norm DeWolfe, Leigh Sharps, and Phil Preston present. Tony Randall represented the department heads for the Town Administrator interviews

Others Present: Katie Maher

The board met with three second round TA candidates, Heather Thibodeau, Maura Leahy and Hamilton McLean. We also interviewed Jennifer Ogden for the position. Ann Barney came before the board for a second interview for the Parks and Recreation Director position

At the conclusion of the interviews, the board discussed the candidates and agreed to make an offer to Heather Thibodeau. F. Newton moved that we offer her a 3-year contract with a starting salary of \$62,000 with a 6-month review. If satisfactory, she would then receive \$65,000 for the remainder of the year, \$67,500 in the second year and \$70,000 in the third year. The contract would include standard benefits per personnel policy with an opt-out clause for either party with a 90-day notice and that she would be an employee at will. L. Sharps seconded the motion and the vote was unanimous (6-0) favor.

The board then discussed the Parks and Recreation Director position and agreed that Ann Barney was the appropriate choice. S. Felton moved to offer the position to her at \$16 per hour. F. Newton seconded the motion and the vote was 5-0 in favor.

The board then met briefly with Fire Chief Steve Heath who presented the apparatus annual reports with critical repair needs. He informed us that the ambulance, now out of service needs repairs to the rear air bags, which do not inflate evenly due to corrosion. The cost of replacement is \$340. In addition, new tire chains are needed at a cost of \$1661. The ladder truck needs a new pressure valve sensor at \$750 and rear springs. The rear springs can be done by the town mechanic, cost to be determined, but estimates from outside vendors range from \$1600 to \$2000. The town mechanic also recommends that the dual frame flanges be repaired this year at a cost of \$710.60. It was the unanimous consensus of the board that Chief Heath should get the repairs done to ensure safety and continued operation of the equipment. He will try to fit these costs into his budget rather than capital reserves.

The next meeting will be on Wednesday morning at 8:00 AM at the Fire Station.

S. Felton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 AM, which was seconded by F. Newton. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fran Newton
8-17-15