

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2015  
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY**

**MINUTES**

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with a roll call. Phil Preston, Steve Felton, Fran Newton, Leigh Sharps, Norm DeWolfe

Others Present: Town Administrator Heather Thibodeau and Pat Crowell

**APPROVALS**

Minutes of October 5, 2015 – Newton moved to approve as written. Felton seconded. In Favor 4-0-1. (Sharps was not at that meeting)

Minutes of October 7, 2015 – Preston moved to approve as amended. Newton seconded. In Favor 4-0-1. (Felton not at that meeting)

Minutes of October 8, 2015 – Preston moved to approve as amended. Felton seconded. All in favor.

Minutes of October 14, 2015 – Newton moved to approve as amended. Sharps seconded. All in favor.

Minutes of October 19, 2015 – Preston moved to approve as written. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

Minutes of October 21, 2015 - Newton moved to approve as amended. Felton seconded. In favor 4-0-1.

Minutes of October 26, 2015 – Newton moved to approve as amended. Felton seconded. All in favor.

Minutes of October 28, 2015 – Newton moved to approve as amended. Sharps seconded. All in favor.

**SIGNATURE FILE**

The Board reviewed the papers that were in the file and signed when appropriate.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Legal Services – Bid comparison/awarding of bid**

The Chairman met with Thibodeau and reviewed the bids received. Thibodeau recommended keeping Mitchel and Associates. Preston said that he has had some dealings with Mitchel and has liked using them. Felton said he was not impressed because of the SB2 meetings. Mitchell represents 57 towns. Sharps said that she has had no problem with Mitchell. Preston moved to accept Mitchel & Associates as the town's legal counsel. Sharps seconded. All in favor 5-0. Thibodeau will notify Mitchell and ask him to reserve January 30, 2016 for SB2.

**Audit Services RFP update**

Thibodeau has a copy of an RFP from another town and gave the Board a copy of it with Ashland's name on it. The Board changed some dates. Felton moved to accept the RFP. Newton seconded. All in favor 5-0.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Tax Rate**

DeWolfe explained that the new rate is \$24.97, which is an increase of \$1.00. He said that the town portion of the rate went from \$8.37 to \$8.61, the school went from \$11.50 to \$12.30, the county went from \$1.59 to \$1.75, and state education wasn't much different.

### **Public Hearing date for Town for Budget Committee**

The public hearing is scheduled for January 14, 2016 at the school cafeteria at 7 pm. The school is scheduled for January 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.

### **PRLAC meeting update**

Sharps explained that at the last meeting Northern Pass was the topic. She said they discussed how it would affect the landscape and their construction plans. It was decided that Dan Stack, Norm and Kathleen DeWolfe, and herself would make site visits. It was suggested that the Water/Sewer Dept. should be kept in the loop regarding the lagoons.

### **Authorization of Capital Reserve funds for paving**

Newton moved to transfer \$125,000 into the Capital Reserve fund. Sharps seconded. All in favor 5-0  
Newton moved to withdraw \$6392.05 from the Capital Reserve fund to pay the remainder of the bill for Bryant Paving. Sharps seconded. All in favor 5-0

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES**

Thibodeau mentioned that Kelly Ayotte's office will have someone here on November 16<sup>th</sup> from 9 to 10am. Martha Richards will be at the meeting on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. Thibodeau read letter from Holderness thanking the town and Tim Paquette for the relationship that they have. Fire Chief Heath submitted letter about Tim Joubert resigning. Received a letter from Mike Capone regarding Northern Pass. The Board asked Thibodeau to investigate. Thibodeau read letter from the DOT which needs to be signed and sent back. Meetings with the Budget Committee have been scheduled for November 12 and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Thibodeau attended a meeting referencing water and sewer being extended from the Covered Bridge and through Holderness. David Toth said that it was a good first meeting.

## **SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

DeWolfe mentioned that Witten Woods closing was last Tuesday.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Kathleen DeWolfe commented that she attended a dinner last week regarding Mt. Prospect in Holderness, which is the adjoining acreage to Witten Woods. She also mentioned that the application from DES regarding Northern Pass is vague. She said that it will be at least a year and a half. There are 14 towers through Ashland. David Toth said that Eli Badger has plotted where the towers will be.

There being no other business, **Newton moved to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II (c) at 7:35 PM.** Felton seconded. All in favor 5-0 **Roll Call Vote:** Sharps, yes; Newton, yes; DeWolfe, yes; Felton, yes; Preston. Yes.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Patricia Crowell 10-6-15