

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING**  
**Wednesday, November 18, 2015**  
**ASHLAND FIRE STATION**  
**7:30 AM**

**MINUTES**

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 7:32 AM with a roll call. Fran Newton, Steve Felton, Norm DeWolfe, Leigh Sharps and Phil Preston were present.

Others present: H. Thibodeau, T. Paquette, P. Tucker, S. Heath

P. Tucker presented draft warrant articles for review. No further action was taken at this point.

The board discussed the situation of the road known as Parkway. P. Tucker, T. Randall and T. Paquette have been researching ownership and obligations. Parkway was actually an extension of Hill Ave. However, the road was discontinued several years back. About 20 feet of roadway is owned by the town and was never deeded to LW Packard. J. Glidden owns that portion of the property on which there is currently parking. The town ceased maintenance (e.g., snow plowing) over 30 years ago. This may mean that ownership of the land (roadway) may revert to the abutters. We should get clarification from LGC. Suggestions were made regarding possible use for parking such as plowing the street and allowing parallel parking on the building side of the road, with the understanding that snow around cars was the responsibility of the owners. However, to allow parking on any street would require a town vote since that would be an exception of current regulations. Ultimately, the board agreed that the town should not be in the business of providing parking for rental property. Parking is a responsibility of landlords. We may offer suggestions to landlords, e.g., enter into discussions with John Glidden for possible lease of his property.

P. Tucker has been looking into the ability of the board to raise some fees and we will discuss at a future meeting. She also informed us that Kenneth Dusombre, who sold in September a camper he had at Amesbrook Campground, wrote a letter to N. DeWolfe. He received a property tax bill and is requesting relief from taxes owed after September since he no longer owns the property. P. Tucker informed us that taxes are assessed annually based on ownership as of April 1. Given that he owned the property at that time, he is responsible for the taxes for that year as all taxpayers are. N. DeWolfe moved that a letter be written to Mr. Dusombre informing him of this decision. F. Newton seconded the motion and all approved.

Walter Durack has requested to be a member of the ATAC. F. Newton made a motion to nominate him. L. Sharps seconded the motion and all approved.

Changes to the Police Department budget were discussed. Chief Randall requested that the PD supplies line be increased from \$1817 to \$4400 because ammo was moved from training to this line. The TA line was changed accordingly and the selectmen agreed with the change. The training line was therefore reduced accordingly from \$5700 to \$3900. The TA and selectmen approved \$2200, a reduction from the previous \$4000.

The board discussed several financial and legal issues involving the Historical Society and specifically issues with the Whipple House. The Heritage Commission has been reviewing ownership, finances and responsibilities of the Historical Society given that they now fall under their umbrella. The history and current status of the Whipple House is as follows:

1. The property was transferred by deed to the town by warrant article in 1970.
2. In 1975, the town voted by warrant article to lease the property to the Historical Society for \$1 per year. That payment has never been made. They were then responsible for maintenance. The lease was drafted in 1976 and needs to be reviewed by legal.

3. Subsequently, the Historical Society allowed a sublease for part of the house for a residence. The group used the rental income to put on programs, not maintenance.
4. S. Heath has inspected both the historical section of the building and the residence. Several issues were raised. He provided the inspection report to the board given that the town is the owner.
5. The Heritage Commission provided an extensive list of repairs that are needed, many of which are quite serious such as a leaking roof, mold, asbestos, and rotting boards. The Historical Society does not have sufficient funds to pay for these repairs.

The board asked the TA to find out if the town currently carries insurance on that building. The Heritage Commission also discovered that the Historical Society maintains a capital reserve fund with approximately \$22,000 for maintenance of the covered bridge. It was noted that the town has paid for maintenance of that bridge, including a new roof and the application of NoChar.

H. Thibodeau informed us that she has received a letter from the Squam Lakes Association who would like to install a water quality monitoring system for the stream on Owl Brook Road near the bridge. There would be no cost to the town. The board agreed with this proposal, but T. Paquette suggested that we inform Squam Lakes that the bridge, on the red line list, is schedule for major repair in 2017 and they should be aware that the system may be impacted.

F. Newton made a motion to go into non public at 8:38 pursuant to RSA 674-A:3, II(a). S. Felton seconded the motion. Roll call vote - all approved.

The public session was reopened at 8:43. No decisions were announced.

N. DeWolfe provided a Northern Pass update. The DES has notified the SEC that the application submitted by Northern Pass is incomplete in three out of four areas. This will likely result in delays for the project.

S. Heath has spoken with Paul Hatch about our Emergency Operations. The recommendation is that we should have a capital reserve fund for shelter operations, given that there would likely be expenses incurred should we have to open a shelter in a declared emergency. The board will review the draft article and ensure that wording is correct. The suggestion is to add \$1000 to that fund.

N. DeWolfe presented his review of the town's current financial situation. October expenses were significantly higher than previous months. He will ask for a detailed report from our financial officer. Given that the budget is now very tight, the board is concerned about meeting our budget. S, Felton moved that we instruct the TA to ask the department heads to curtail expenses, specifically that the board will review any expenses that are not already approved or required. N. DeWolfe will ask Brenda Paquette to work with H. Thibodeau to develop a projected budget for the end of the year with known or best estimate expenses. We will review this at our next meeting.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 25 at 7:30 AM in the Fire Station.

F. Newton made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:13 AM, which was seconded by S. Felton. All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Fran Newton  
11-18-15