

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2015
ASHLAND FIRE STATION
7:30 AM**

MINUTES

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

Others Present: TA Heather Thibodeau, DPW Dir. Tim Paquette, Linda Guyotte, Mardean Badger, David Ruell and Nobis Representatives: Tony Guinta, Tim Andrews and Brett Kay.

Mardean and David presented the two petitioned warrant articles being presented by the Library Trustees. One article for the purchase of the old school for a new library. Tri County Cap has lowered the price from last year. This article is for a total of \$775,000 which includes \$25,000 from the current capital reserve fund. Article 2 is for an additional \$25,000. added to the capital reserve account if the first library article fails. The Board agreed to submit the articles for legal review.

Nobis representatives presented their thoughts on being engineering consultants for the town and their willingness to represent the town in the next phase (Phase II) of the Mill Brownfield assessment through the Region 1 EPA Brownfield assessment program grant. It was stated that there is still interest by Ron Perlman to purchase the tax lien portion of the mill and that the Mortgage owner John Glidden is willing to work with Perlman in this process. There was discussion about how this process could work. Ownership by the Town is not required to complete the next phase of assessment Town Liability was discussed. They provided the Board with the application. They will submit a proposal for being the Town engineering consultants.

Linda Guyotte, Town Treasurer, discussed her Deputy Treasurer Linda Eastman . She provided the Board with her duties. She explained how the town and utilities pay for both her and the Treasurer stipend. She felt that the stipends were justified. The Board agreed to leave the proposed stipends as they are. The Board also discussed the request by the Water & Sewer department to have the Town process payroll for their lone employee Ann Sullivan as they move forward with separating accounting and billing from the Electric Department.

The Board discussed the Auditing Services Bids. A motion was made by DeWolfe, seconded by Felton to hire Melanson Heath of Manchester as the new Town Auditor. Vote was 4-0 with Preston abstaining. Motion moved.

The Board discussed the fees for activities such as "Kids night out". Currently, AARA, the support group for Park and Recs receives the fees. Is this OK? or must the fees go to the town. The Board directed the TA to get a legal opinion of this through NHMA legal services.

Bids for town cleaning services were opened. There were two. The Board had previously agreed to make this a contract service rather to use a town employee. Both proposals were discussed. A Motion by Newton, seconded by Sharps was made to choose Great Northern Cleaning Company for the town cleaning service, Vote was 5-0. Moved unanimously. Tim P brought up that the Board should consider making the cleaning of the Bath House part of the job responsibilities of the lifeguards or gatekeepers.

Tim Paquette informed the Board that the proposal to change locks and provide 25 new keys for the Booster club for \$595. was reasonable considering what was going to be done for this price. A Motion by DeWolfe, seconded by Felton to approve the proposal by Advance Lock & Key for \$595. Vote was 5-0. Moved unanimously.

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The Board discussed the Town's tax rate finalization and calculations. DeWolfe passed out a summary sheet of the tax rate over the last several years. It was noted the school portion comprised the major portion of the rate increase over this period.

The Board discussed the proposed warrant article to raise the campground fees by \$200. /year. There was discussion about storage fees and the lease. How could we raise the fees without full knowledge of what we are doing about the lease and storage fees. A Motion was made by DeWolfe, seconded by Newton to approve listing the warrant article with the \$200. per year fee increase. Vote was 3-2 with Felton and Preston opposed. Motion passed.

Motion by Felton, seconded by DeWolfe to go into non public pursuant to RSA 91-a:3,II(a) at 9:50 AM. Roll Call vote all-Yes. Discussed recommendation for hiring of Deputy Fire Chief.

Motion to leave non public by DeWolfe, seconded by Preston at 9:56 AM. All voted yes.

Board agreed to accept recommendation of The Deputy Fire Chief Search Committee for the open position.

The Board discussed the current status of the Board's offer to pay for Health Insurance for Ernie Paquette. This has gone on now for a year. The Board agreed that there was no change in its position for Mr. Paquette to pay 10%. A motion was made by DeWolfe, seconded by Felton to present a January 31, 2016 deadline for a response from Paquette or offer will be withdrawn. Vote 5-0. Moved unanimously.

Seeing that there was no other business. DeWolfe motioned to adjourn at 10:06 AM. Seconded by Steve F. Moved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Leigh Sharps
12-18-2015