

ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORK SESSION
MONDAY DECEMBER 21, 2015
ASHLAND SCHOOL LIBRARY
6:30 PM

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM with a roll call. Fran Newton, Norm DeWolfe, Leigh Sharps, Steve Felton, present.

Others Present: Town Administrator Heather Thibodeau and Pat Crowell

Alice Staples, Mardean Badger, and David Ruell, Library Trustees, have brought signed petitions for their Warrant Articles. They explained both articles. The first is to acquire the old school building for \$800,000, which will be to purchase the building, renovate and furnish it. They are looking into a few finance options. This will need a bond hearing. The other warrant article will be for \$25,000 to go into Capital Reserve if the bond issue fails.

OLD BUSINESS

Audit Services – new auditing firm – DeWolfe announced that they have decided to use Melanson & Heath from Manchester as the town’s new auditing firm. Thibodeau will ask them to come to a meeting in January.

Current Issue Log- Audit RFP can be archived. Felton asked about dummy email accounts. Thibodeau is working on this. The Board decided that we should call another company in regard to the asbestos. Thibodeau said that she has received a letter from Primex regarding PRIME. We have been approved to get a cost reduction in our liability insurance. Thibodeau will arrange meeting with Rick Alpers from PRIMEX. Sharps asked about the manhole covers on Riverside Drive. They will be fixed in the Spring. Thibodeau has received letter from DRED and will share the letter with the Board. Thibodeau mentioned Novis. She talked with them today and we will be receiving a packet of information regarding Phase II grant. She will set up a meeting with them after the new year. The Whipple House issue has been sent to the lawyer. North Ashland Road safety issue and the Ashland Transportation Advisory Committee needs to be added the log.

Warrant Articles – Walter Mitchell has received the articles and is reviewing them. The Library Trustees will send Thibodeau the warrant articles so that she can send them to Mitchell also. The Planning Board has not sent their ordinance articles yet. The last day for petitioned articles is January 13. The Budget Committee needs to review them. They will be meeting on the 28th of December.

NEW BUSINESS

Financial Review – DeWolfe distributed his review and discussed actual expenses and what has been spent so far this year. He feels that we will not over expend budget.

Proposed Revenue Estimate – There were no questions from the Board. DeWolfe mentioned that we have not yet received the money from the state for room and meals tax, which will be about \$100,000. Newton moved to accept the Proposed Revenue Budget for 2016. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

Encumbrances – The Board discussed the encumbrances submitted by the department heads. The Board asked Tim Paquette, DPW Director, if he had any. He said that he will encumber money for the trash compactor. Felton moved to encumber \$38,841 as listed on the sheet. Sharps seconded. All in favor.

Newton mentioned that her term as Health Officer has expired. Felton moved to appoint Newton to another term. DeWolfe seconded. Newton abstained. In favor 3-0-1. Sharps moved to appoint DeWolfe to another term as Deputy Health Officer. Felton seconded. DeWolfe recused himself. In favor 3-0-1.

DeWolfe announced that the town assessor will be collecting data and mentioned all the roads affected.

TA Updates – Thibodeau mentioned that Bob Bousquet was approved as the Deputy Fire Chief. She mentioned that the Cadillac Tax has been delayed until 2020. The Vacation Camp at the Booster Club has been cancelled due to low enrollment.

Selectboard Items – Sharps mentioned that she will be attending Election Law Training on January 19th at Plymouth State University on High St. in Plymouth.

There being no other business, **Newton moved to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II (a) at 7:16 PM.** Felton seconded. All in favor 4-0 **Roll Call Vote:** Sharps, yes; Newton, yes; DeWolfe, yes; Felton, yes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Crowell
12-24-15