

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORKSESSION
MONDAY, JANUARY 18, 2016
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY**

MINUTES

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM with a roll call. Leigh Sharps, Phil Preston, Steve Felton, Normand DeWolfe, Fran Newton, present.

Others Present: Town Administrator Heather Thibodeau, Pat Crowell, and Brenda Paquette

SIGNATURE FILE

Selectmen will sign the items in the Signature file during the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Default Budget final review – The Select Board went through the budget line by line and asked several questions of Brenda Paquette, Finance Officer. She will check the RSA regarding adding a new line to the default budget. Several lines were changed to a lower figure including the fuel lines in the Police, DPW, and Fire Department budgets.

Current Issue Log – Land Use Clerk – Pat Crowell has agreed to work with the Planning Board and the Zoning Board. **Ashland Properties** – TA Thibodeau met with Nobis Engineering. They stated that there is no commitment from the town to take the property and what would be done if we did take it. Felton said that Economic Development will look into this and put together a plan. **PRIME** – Rick Alpers will be at the February 16th meeting. **Fire Escape at town hall** – Archive. **E-Mail** – Newton has been using a demo account and has some questions and concerns. Need to set up a meeting to discuss.

Financial Review – Chairman DeWolfe said that the town spent \$154,000 less last year. He also showed the Board a tax rate sheet from 2006 through 2015.

Asbestos removal/flooring replacement estimates – The Board would like more estimates.

Warrant Articles update – The Chairman said that there will be no Wednesday morning meeting this week. He asked the Board who wanted to speak on each of the articles. Fire Truck – Chief Heath & Newton; Library – Library trustees & Sharps; Budget – DeWolfe; Article 9 – DeWolfe; Loader – Newton; Roads – Felton; PD – Felton; FD – Newton; Motor Vehicle fees – Tucker & Newton; Campground fees – DeWolfe; Emergency Management – Felton & Thibodeau; Ordinance changes – Tucker; Charitable articles – Preston; Northern Pass – Preston.

Campground Lease/Bridgeton, ME review – Preston asked if the Doggett Campground is a trailer park or campground. The Chairman said that this is the reason that a new lease needs to be discussed. Ann Barney and TA Thibodeau will look at this lease and bring any changes to the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

Whipple House – Flanders will visit.

Payroll outsourcing estimates – Thibodeau said that she had several recommendations about ADP. We need to get some references for PayChex. Thibodeau will call. The Board asked about bi-weekly paychecks. It's not in the Union contract, but could be brought up next year.

Northern Pass Coalition request – Preston spoke on this issue. He presented the Board with a letter requesting Intervener status. Some concerns were expressed from a Water & Sewer Commissioner, who said that he hadn't received anything with a date on it. Kathleen DeWolfe from the Conservation Commission asked if a letter should be sent along with the request. Preston said that this is a first step to request Intervener Status. DeWolfe moved to see if the Town will create a Northern Pass Defense Fund for the purpose of financing legal expenses and other costs incurred by the Town in advocating the Town's opposition to the Northern Pass project, to appoint the Board of Selectmen as agents to spend this fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3000 to be placed in this fund. Newton seconded. All in favor. Crowell will email the Boards and Commissions tomorrow to get more feedback.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

-Thibodeau met with Nobis last week. She has a new schedule of fees for 2016. The Board was OK with the contractual language.

-There was a flood at the Booster Club today. Rusty Cross was there a shut off the water. He said that the end of the pipe was rusted and blew off. Barney had to use a wet vac and call the Fire Dept. to drain the water. Paquette noticed it first thing this morning and DPW also helped in the clean-up.

-Newton moved to take over the payroll for the Water & Sewer Department. Preston seconded. All in favor.

-Thibodeau said that she has received a check for \$1.00 from the Historical Society for the lease of the Whipple House.

-Newton moved to encumber \$3875.00 for the trash compactor. Preston seconded. All in favor.

-Received new complaint about a camper trailer and truck in the right of way off of North Ashland Road. There is also trash there. There is no ordinance. The Board asked that Thibodeau send a letter. This should be put on the Concerned Citizen Log.

-Thibodeau attended workshop about Roads.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS

Voter's Guide – Newton would like more CIP recommendations where appropriate. Article 16 – last sentence – separate paragraph and put in bold or caps. Article 17 – not just property tax owners.

Sharps gave a summary of the Heritage Commission's last meeting.

There being no other business, **Newton moved to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II (c) at 8:35 PM.** Preston seconded. All in favor 5-0 **Roll Call Vote:** Preston, yes; Sharps, yes; DeWolfe, yes; Felton, yes; Newton, yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Crowell

1-20-15