

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, February 1, 2016
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY**

MINUTES

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 6:33 PM with a roll call. Steve Felton, Norm DeWolfe, Fran Newton, Leigh Sharps, Phil Preston, present.

Others Present: Town Administrator Heather Thibodeau and Pat Crowell

APPROVALS

Minutes of January 4, 2016 – Felton moved to approve as written. DeWolfe seconded. Newton abstained. In favor 4-0-1.

Minutes of January 13, 2016 – Felton moved to approve as written. Sharps seconded. All in favor.

Minutes of January 18, 2016 – Felton moved to approve as written. Preston seconded. All in favor.

Minutes of January 25, 2016 – Preston moved to approve with correction to a line. The line will read: Felton conferenced called in, but he was told that the vote had already occurred. Newton seconded. Felton abstained. In favor 4-0-1

OLD BUSINESS

Smith Hill Engineering – The Board was hoping that Mr. McLean would be at this meeting. Thibodeau will call and invite him to the next regular meeting.

SEC Intervenor letter – Felton spoke about the Northern Pass Project and how this letter might impact Ashland. The Board signed the letter and it will be mailed tomorrow.

Outsourcing Payroll – Thibodeau explained that the town's that currently have PAYCHEX had favorable opinions and were satisfied with the quality of the work. Crowell asked if the town would receive an abatement from BMSI if we no longer use the payroll program. There are lots of questions that the Board still has, so it was decided to table the discussion until the next meeting.

General Assistance (Welfare) – The Chairman just wanted to mention that Thursday night hours have been cancelled and that applications can be obtained during normal business hours at the town office.

Estimates for flooring covering 2nd floor Town Hall – Thibodeau explained that the best way to cover the floors upstairs is to use carpeting. Baker Valley Floors is the least expensive and includes the upstairs bathroom. JD Demolition will be used for the asbestos removal. Felton moved to accept the proposals from JD Demolition and Baker Valley Floors. Sharps seconded. All in favor. The \$21,199 is to be taken out of Capital Reserve.

Brownfield Phase II Mill Properties – Thibodeau will sign the application and will submit tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS

SB2 Deliberative Session recap – The Board thought that the session went very well. The Chairman stated that next year the Default budget will be ready earlier.

Election Coverage – The Board decided that Felton will be at the polls between 8 and 10, DeWolfe will be there between 10 and 1, Preston between 1 and 3:30, and Sharps between 3:30 and 7 pm.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Thibodeau said that she needed two Selectmen to agree on a time to come into the town office so that they can learn more about the new email program. Felton and Newton will be in on the 16th of February early morning. Sue McLeod will be there also. Thibodeau also said that she needs Board approval to pay the insurance bill for the Water & Sewer retiree. The Board doesn't want to take this on because they say it is an accounts payable and Water & Sewer should be paying it.

Thibodeau thanked the people at the town office who helped with everything for last Saturday.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS

Sharps said that she had attended a meeting of the PRLAC. She said that they spent two hours talking about Northern Pass. They were also asked to say what their town's priorities were and do we need or want more access to the River.

There were no public comments.

There being no other business, **Newton moved to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II (a) at 7:33 PM.** Sharps seconded. All in favor 5-0 **Roll Call Vote:** Preston, yes; Sharps, yes; DeWolfe, yes; Felton, yes, Newton, yes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Crowell
2-2-15