

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING - MINUTES
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017
ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – LIBRARY- 6:30 PM**

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm with a roll call. Fran Newton, Steve Felton, Leigh Sharps, Harold Lamos, present.

Others Present: Town Administrator Charles Smith and Administrative Assistant Pat Crowell

Chairman Newton opened the Public Hearing at 6:30pm.

Mardean Badger explained the \$25,000 grant from USDA which the Library has applied for. The grant will pay for 75% of the cost of furniture for the building. She said that the grant was submitted on January 9, 2017. The grant will be turned down if the warrant article to purchase the library doesn't pass. There was a handout at the Deliberative Session that mentioned the grant.

The Chairman resumed the regular meeting at 6:45pm.

Katherine Hahn, the Ashland representative for the Pemi-Baker School Board introduced several people who are involved with the renovations at the high school in Plymouth. Bruce Parsons explained the project. The renovations would only be in the Career and Technical Center. The total cost of the project is \$8.5 million. The local contribution would be \$3.1 million and \$5.3 million would come from the state.

MINUTES

January 17, 2017 – Felton moved to approve as written. Lamos seconded. All in favor 4-0

January 25, 2017 – Lamos moved to approve as amended. Felton seconded. All in favor 4-0

The Chairman explained why the Board needed to re-vote on a few of the warrant articles.

Article #3 – Minor changes to article, adding "land". Vote is 3 to 1 Not Recommending.

Article #4 – Fire Truck All in favor 4-0

Article #21 – LCHIP grant All in favor 4-0

Article #37 – Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Vote 3-1 Not Recommending.

Article #38 – Treasurer – 4-0 Not Recommending

Article 39 – Town Manager – Vote 3-1 Not Recommending

Article #41 – Northern Pass – All in favor 4-0

LRPC-Culvert Contract – Felton said that this is a great opportunity. It would cost the Town \$2500 which is a 75/25 match. All were in favor of entering into the contract.

Building Permit fees – Mardean Badger, Planning Board member, explained why the Planning Board did not approve the new fee schedule. They contacted surrounding towns to ask about their fees. She said that it was difficult to compare. Chairman Newton said that it could be on a case by case basis. TA Smith explained the Building Inspector's spreadsheet. Badger said that she has the comparisons and will send them to TA Smith.

Office Manager/Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector position – TA Smith said that there were many candidates and there are a few possibilities. The Board would like to set up appointments so that they can interview. TA Smith will send the resumes to the Board.

New Hire – Tim Paquette has hired Craig Moore to fill the Equipment Operator/Laborer position. The Board signed off. Moore has been filling in for the department and has a CDL.

Selectman Sharps reported on her **PRLAC meetings** and Planning Board also.

Selectman Lamos asked if there could be a collaboration between the DPW and the DOT. He has received complaints regarding snow removal on Main Street. Tim Paquette explained.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Bobbi Hoerter spoke about Library access and snow removal in front of the Community Center on Highland Street.

Tejasinha Sivalingam said that his concern is for the elderly getting around in the snow. He said that maybe the PWD needs more money. He also talked about the letter he sent to the Board regarding the language of the Northern Pass Article. He would like to add the word “in”. The Board suggested that he also write a letter to the editor.

Sherri Downing asked the Board when they read their Mission Statement. She also made some comments about Mechanic Street parking. She said that Main Street hadn’t been cleared until 1pm. She also said that she has spoken with Nancy Cross at the Community Center who told her that she has been in the Town Office several times complaining about the snow in front of her building. Pat Crowell said that she has not seen Ms. Cross at the office at all.

Tejasinha Sivalingam said that he referred to the “Board of Select” because he says that most of the Board are women.

There being no other business, **Newton moved to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II (a) at 7:50 PM.** Sharps seconded. All in favor 4-0 **Roll Call Vote:** Sharps, yes; Felton, yes; Newton, yes; Lamos, yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Crowell
2-13-17