

ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
WORK SESSION
MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2017
ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
6:30 PM

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with a roll call. Chairman Fran Newton, Selectmen Tejasinha Sivalingam, Casey Barney, Leigh Sharps, and Harold Lamos, present. Others Present: Town Administrator Charles Smith and Administrative Assistant Wendy Smith.

Prior to the Work Session, Selectman Sivalingam made a **Motion to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (c) at 6:17 PM**. Selectman Barney seconded. **Roll Call Vote:** Lamos, yes; Sivalingam, yes, Barney, yes, Newton, yes.

APPROVALS

Selectman Sharps nominated Chairman Newton for Chairman, Chairman Newton seconded. Discussion followed. Sharps, Newton, and Barney in favor. Lamos and Sivalingam opposed. Selectman Sharps motioned to nominate Selectman Lamos for Vice-Chair. Selectman Sivalingam seconded. Chairman Newton nominated Selectman Sharps for Vice-Chair, no one seconded. All in favor for Selectman Lamos as Vice-Chair.

MINUTES

April 3, 2017- Lamos approved as amended, Barney seconded. Four in favor, Sivalingam abstained.

CONSENT AGENDA

Personnel Action Forms for position raises the DPW Director, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, and Police Department Lieutenant were discussed. TA Smith previously discussed the raises with the department heads and they were comfortable with covering the raises in their budgets. Selectman Sivalingam brought up that the department raises should be voted on separately and added that he couldn't see the justification of increasing the Tax Collector's longevity line since the warrant article from the 2017 budget didn't pass.

DPW: Director Paquette said the Equipment Operator Foreman position's raise of \$0.25 would bring the position where it should be and that there was room in his budget. Sharps motioned to approve the DPW raise and Lamos seconded, all in favor. Sharps motioned to increase DPW Director's salary by \$3,000 as proposed by the Board of Selectmen in the 2017 operating budget. Lamos seconded. Vote 4-1 in favor. Sivalingam opposed.

Police: Discussion ensued regarding increasing the Police Lt.'s rate from \$26.26/hr. to \$28.01/hr. which is in step with the union pay increases. Sharps motioned to approve, Lamos seconded. All in favor.

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Sharps motioned to increase longevity line by \$2,206 divided between the two positions, Newton seconded. Motion passed 4-1. Sivalingam opposed.

DPW Director Paquette requested permission to pursue bidding for the yearly street sweeping contract. Sharps motioned to approve, Lamos seconded, all in favor. Director Paquette requested permission to

pursue bidding for the yearly catch basin cleaning contract. Sharps motioned to approve, Barney seconded, all in favor. Director Paquette requested permission to purchase a line paint sprayer, as the existing sprayer needs to be replaced. Estimated cost to replace paint sprayer is \$3,925 and is \$2,000 less than the fall quote. Sivalingam motioned to approve, Lamos seconded, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

Site Access Agreement-Chairman Newton began with discussion of Attorney Whitley's representation of the Ashland Water and Sewer department at hearings and our agreement to include only engineering studies in the access agreement. Lamos made a motion to terminate Ashland's relationship with PSNH/Northern Pass and read a supporting statement, Sivalingam seconded.

Chairman Newton said she believed this action is short sighted because the study would provide baseline information and would protect the town in the future. Further discussion followed with David Toth, Director of the Water and Sewer Department who said the lagoons could be damaged if lines were constructed and the study would be beneficial. Lamos had issues with the access at 6 Collins Street. Sivalingam wanted to know if there were other ways of doing the study said that there is the possibility of creating a perception that the Town is working with PSNH/Northern Pass. David Toth said there are other ways of testing but it would cost the Town a lot of money. Further discussion followed. Question was called to terminate negotiations with Eversource, PSNH and Northern Pass. Sivalingam, Lamos, and Sharps voted in favor and Barney and Newton opposed.

Project List:

- TA to attend Local Public Agency certification training at NHDOT for the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and funding for the sidewalk grant.
- Thompson Street – High Street – Smith Hill road project added back to the list. Discussion on alternatives to fixing the road after warrant article failure.
- GIS Mapping -TA has a meeting with Cyber Fern on 4/21/17.
- LW Packard Mill site-TA filed application for funding brownfields.
- River Walk maintenance -Involve Conservation commission and Memorial Park Trustees. Discussion on whether volunteers from PSU would be appropriate for this. Lamos volunteered his time.
- Town Hall-Looking into making the windows at Town Hall openable and still staying within historical parameters. Mango Security is giving an estimate for fire alarm system.
- Board of Selectmen Operational Guideline handbook-Discussion on motion made by Sivalingam to make handbook nonbinding. Lamos seconded. Both in favor, Barney, Newton, and Sharps opposed. Board agreed to further discuss the handbook at next board meeting.
- Solar Energy-Chairman Newton discussed the topic with the board.
- Board of Selectmen goals and objectives meeting with Primex TA Smith will follow up on arranging a meeting between the board and Primex.

Melanson Heath, Auditors-Board of Selectmen signed the annual engagement letter the second year of a three-year contract.

NEW BUSINESS

Town Website Upgrade – Mardean Badger, Town webmaster presented reasons why the site needs to be upgraded. Discussion followed for alternatives to using Notch Net, but it was agreed it would be more effective to upgrade with them. Cost for the upgrade is a onetime expense of \$2,400. Selectman Sharps motioned to approve the upgrade. Newton seconded. Four in favor, Sivalingam opposed.

Liaison Appointments-

The following board liaison appointments were made, motioned and seconded:

1. Budget Committee – Lamos
2. Budget Committee Alternate - Sivalingam
3. CIP – Newton
4. Heritage Commission – Sharps
5. Economic Development – Newton
6. Joint Loss Mgt. – Lamos
7. Water & Sewer – Sivalingam
8. Electric Commission – Barney
9. Planning Board – Sharps
10. Planning Board Alternate – Newton
11. PRLAC – Sharps
12. Conservation Commission – Lamos
13. 4th of July Committee – Lamos
14. 4th of July Committee Alternate – Sharps
15. Ashland Transportation Adv. Comm. – Sivalingam

Public Board and Committee Reappointments-

Ashland Transportation Advisory Committee-Newton

Planning Board-Carol Fucarile, 2 year term

Planning Board-Erica Hebert, 3 year term

Zoning Board-Susan MacLeod, 2 year term

Conservation Commission-Harold Lamos, 3 year term and Amanda Loud, 2 year appointment

Memorial Park Trustees-Susan MacLeod, 2 year term; Stephen Jaquith, 3 year term; Liz Stevens, 1 year term.

CIP-Kendall Hughes, 3 year term

Joint Loss Committee-George Chase, 3 year term and Wendy Smith, 2 year term

Levi Bradley letter-Mr. Bradley would like to open a distillery in town and requested a letter for his investors from the town stating whether there is any opposition to this type of business operating in Ashland. There was no objection from the board regarding operation of this type of business and the drafting of the letter. Chairman Newton would like the wording of the letter to be checked with town counsel.

Planning Board Updates-Selectman Sharps reported a new car business opening up in the old Dollar Store building. NY Bagel and Deli hopes to open by June. 4th of July buttons have been done by JD Design.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- Discussion ensued amongst residents, the Board and the Director of the DPW regarding drainage and reconstruction of Smith Hill and Thompson Street. Selectman Lamos suggested we reach out to LRPC for an assessment of the situation and Sivalingam will be speaking further about this issue at the ATAC meeting.
- Mr. Preston commented that the Boards decision made tonight on Northern Pass is not in the best interest of the Town.
- TA Smith announced the Town Clerk/Tax Collector office will be closed for training on 4/26/17.

There being no other business, Selectman Lamos made **Motion to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a) at 8:52 PM**. Selectman Sharps seconded. All in favor 4-0 **Roll Call Vote:** Lamos, yes; Sivalingam, yes, Barney, yes, Newton, yes, Sharps, yes.

Selectman Lamos made **Motion to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (e) at 9:08 PM**. Selectman Sivalingam seconded. All in favor 4-0 **Roll Call Vote:** Lamos, yes; Sivalingam, yes, Barney, yes, Newton, yes, Sharps, yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Smith
April 18, 2017