

ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY JANUARY 3, 2011

Call to Order

Chairman Stewart called the Ashland Board of Selectmen (Board) meeting to order at 7 PM.

Roll Call

Members present – Daniel Golden, Glenn Dion, Jeanette I. Stewart

Others Present – Town Administrator Paul Branscombe, Clerk Pat Tucker, members of the public

Pledge of Allegiance

The assembly was led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Disposition of Minutes

Motion to accept minutes of December 19, 2011 Public Hearing with the following corrections [change “is with” to “assisted”; change “cable company” to “provider”; add “before between come and the”] – Stewart; second – Golden; vote 3-0 in favor

Motion to accept minutes of December 19, 2011 with the following corrections [Page 1, line 33 change \$40,000 plus insulation to \$44,000 to include; Page 1 line 53 add “at 8:30 AM”; Page 2, line 6 add “the town administrator and Selectman Dion”; Page 2, line 26 change “a warrant article” to “a petitioned warrant article” – Stewart; second – Golden; vote 3-0.

Old Business

- Health Insurance contributions by town employees – the Select Board and the Electric Commissioners reviewed the proposal regarding employee contributions to health insurance; Electric Commission Chairman Kendall L. Hughes stated that the non union employees of the Electric Department will be contributing \$20 per week towards their health insurance [it was later stated that Linda Pack would be compensated for this contribution]. Following discussion - ***Motion to have the town employees contribute 5% towards health insurance effective April 1, 2012; 7.5% effective April 1, 2013; 10% effective April 1, 2014 – Dion; second – Golden; vote 3-0 in favor.***

New Business

- Parking and Signage outside Library – discussed the issue of signs, long term parking in front of library – **Action – Selectman Stewart and Town Administrator Branscombe will consult with Scribner Trustees regarding the issue**

Town Administrator Report

- Fire Department Roof – trying to locate building blueprints in order to consult with a structural engineer
- pbCAM taping this evenings meeting
- New website going live soon
- Budget Hearings for Town is January 12 and for the School January 11 at 7PM
- Concerns have been expressed about excessive amounts of salt in our water supply

- River Street Bridge passed inspection and reimbursement from the state is expected soon
- Anticipate getting a TAN in February
- Booster Club occupancy permit has been obtained

Department Head Reports

- Police Department – Chief Randall
 - Ongoing investigation regarding Library burglary
 - Lt. Marren and Sgt. Hamilton attended updated course relative to automobile crashes
 - Officer Cote attended a PBT/FST instructor certification
 - Christmas Night in Ashland was successful
 - Adm. Assistant Beaudry and Chief helped serve Christmas lunch at the school
 - Provided security for Mitt Romney
 - December incidents totaled 141
 - Remember to lock your vehicles and report suspicious activity
- Fire Department – Chief Heath
 - December activity – 30 calls
 - Training – regular fire and EMS training
 - Members of Pemi WET Team trained on the Pemi River
 - Repairs and maintenance to ladder
 - SCBA were repaired
- Public Works Department – Tim Paquette
 - Lack of snow has allowed for ground work projects
 - Dealt with ice issues; plowed, sanded and salted
 - Transfer station recycled 1 ton of newspaper; sold scrap aluminum; baled aluminum cans
 - Asked residents to contact Director Paquette if they have issues with the department
- Parks and Recreation – Jim Gleich
 - Was MC for Christmas Night in Ashland
 - Dec 16 – Kids Night Out
 - January 1 – afterschool program fees increased to \$35 per week; \$9 daily
 - Office hours are from 2 PM to 6 PM
- Treasurer Balance \$1,299,420.02 with payables of \$71,541.39

Select Board Items

- It was the consensus of the Board to increase the legal line of the proposed budget from \$15,000 to \$35,000 and the add \$4750 to the Revaluation of Property for the purpose of the Vision Assessing Software budget
- The Board agreed to post a meeting for January 11, 2012 at 9AM to review money warrant articles

Public Comments

- David Ruell asked if the union contract would be ready for 1/12/12
- Alice Staples would like to have the Library Trustees kept informed regarding the parking issue
- Ann Lamson asked if the businesses or the town would be paying for new signage – **reply was that the businesses would be paying**

- Ann Lamson complimented the Ashland Fire Department for their quick response to her residence
- Steve Felton asked if the legal expenses could be put into a warrant article
- Sandra Coleman asked what the encumbrances for 2011 were - \$10,000 for master plan and \$13,950 for the Booster Club winterization
- Cheryl Thompson asked the Electric Commissioners about the health insurance contribution; Sandra Coleman stated that Linda Pack will be compensated for this contribution
- Ingrid Heidenreich commented on the health insurance contributions being started on April 1
- Sherry Downing announced that there will be a fundraiser at Highlites on February 4 to raise money for flowers and barrels
- Kendall L. Hughes stated that only non union personnel will be paying towards their health insurance
- Ingrid Heidenreich asked why there were no funds encumbered for the fire department roof – ***no contract was made in order to encumber the funds***

Motion to adjourn at 8:30 PM – Stewart; second – Golden; vote 3-0 in favor

Taken by Patricia Tucker