

1 ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
2 MEETING MINUTES
3 December 17, 2012
4

5 Call to Order

6 Chairman Stewart called the Ashland Board of Selectmen [Board]
7 meeting to order at 7 PM.
8

9 Roll Call

10 Present - Philip Preston, Jeanette I. Stewart, Daniel Golden
11
12

13 Others Present - TA Branscombe, Clerk Pat Tucker, members of the public
14

15 Pledge of Allegiance
16

17 Disposition of Minutes

18 ***Motion to approve minutes of December 12, 2012 as written - Golden;***
19 ***second - Stewart; vote 3-0***
20

21 ***Motion to approve minutes of December 3, 2012 as written - Preston;***
22 ***second - Stewart; vote 3-0***
23

24 Signature File

25 Reviewed and signed manifests for payroll [\$10,298.17], accounts payable
26 [\$18,597.63], welfare [\$2,105.32]
27

28 Signed Intent to Cut - 008-001-011

29 Signed Invoice for Police Department Software support

30 Signed Pemi Baker School payment schedule
31

32 Old Business

33 Loader Warrant Article - ***Motion to approve correct warrant article to read***
34 ***“to see if the town will vote to authorize the selectmen to enter into a five***
35 ***year lease agreement for \$145,700 for the purpose of a lease purchase of***
36 ***the four wheel drive loader for the Public Works Department, and to raise***
37 ***and appropriate the sum of \$29,133 for the first year payment for that***
38 ***purpose. This lease agreement contains an escape clause. (Majority vote***
39 ***required) - Stewart; second - Preston; vote 3-0***
40

41 Reviewed written questions from Public
42

- 43 1. How much money will the town have left one the bills for 2012 are paid
44 from the current tax receipts? Will this leave us enough money to pay
45 our bills until July? If not, what is the reason that the town does not
46 have enough cash on hand to meet its obligations? Please be specific
47 and provide adequate financial detail to support your explanation. I
48 would like to hear the select board explain this, no the town
49 administrator or Anita. - David Toth

50 ***At this time it is too early to have this information.***

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4 2. What will the exact unassigned balance be at the end of 2012? Exactly
5 how much of this is cash? Please have the select board answer this
6 question. - David Toth
7 ***This amount will be known some time after its annual audit.***
8 ***Can not answer until all the bills have come in at the end of***
9 ***the year. [Stewart]***
- 10 3. Please contact Primex and ask them what the liability is of having
11 members of the fire department sweep snow off a roof that is in
12 serious need of repair. I would like a member of the Board to read
13 their written response at the meeting. - David Toth
14 ***Primex will cover and they will be covered under workers***
15 ***compensation. [Stewart]***
- 16 4. Please have Mr. Hicks come and review the actions he has taken at 35
17 Highland Street to resolve the problem. Mr. Hicks should explain the
18 current status, the actions he has requested the owner to take, the
19 time table for the completion of those actions, and the actions the
20 town will take if the owner does not comply. -David Toth
21 ***Mr. Hicks came to the work session on December 12 and the***
22 ***Board gave his two weeks to get back to the Board.***
23 ***[Stewart]***
- 24 5. Why has the Select Board allowed the situation at 35 Highland Street to
25 continue for such an extended period of time? Will the board review
26 Mr. Hick's performance in regard to 35 Highland Street and take
27 appropriate action if they find he has not dealt with this case properly
28 or in a timely fashion? - David Toth
29 ***The Board discussed this with Mr. Hicks on December 12.***
30 ***Issue has been going on since 2009, the owners take care of***
31 ***part of the issue which extends the process.***
- 32
33 6. What is the current status of the economic development committee
34 Jeanette Stewart promised voters? What has the board failed to
35 establish the committee in the 9 months since the election? - David
36 Toth
37 ***I did not promise to form a committee, I said one was***
38 ***needed, but they are a three member board - Stewart***
- 39
40 7. Will the Select Board consider outsourcing the public works department
41 considering the serious financial situation the town is in? - David Toth
42 ***Preston - no; Golden - no; Stewart - no***
- 43
44 8. The board has chosen to place the money for the replacement of the
45 fire department roof in the town's operating budget. Large capital
46 expenses like the repair of the roof are meant to be placed in warrant
47 articles and approved by voters. Why has the board tried to
48 circumvent voter approval? - David Toth
49
50 ***Had a \$50,000 warrant article last year and being in the***
51 ***2013 budget is legal - Stewart***
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- 4 9. Please have each member of the board provide a detailed explanation
5 their reasons for banning public comments at the Select board
6 Meetings. Please have them present the facts upon which they based
7 their decision. - David Toth

8 ***There does not have to be facts, the Board can decide to do***
9 ***this, it was recommended by the town administrator; the***
10 ***Board can hold an emergency meeting if necessary - Stewart***

- 11
12 10. The board is submitting another warrant article for the repair of the
13 town clock. Meanwhile, the town is facing paying millions for capital
14 expenses that are critical over the next 5 to 10 years. Why put money
15 away for non-critical item, when we could put money into funds for
16 public works, the police department, the fire department, or other
17 areas where we will need to make major purchases? Is this an example
18 of how the prioritizes the town's needs? - David Toth

19 ***This is a historical site which is important to the residents;***
20 ***it is an old clock and could be high cost item to fix; when***
21 ***enough money is in the fund the warrant article would be***
22 ***eliminated - Stewart***

23
24 ***The voters will decide if it is needed - Preston***

- 25
26 11. What is the town's backup plan for conducting emergency operations in
27 the event that the fire department roof collapses during a major snow
28 storm making the EOC, fire equipment, and the ambulance in operable?
29 - David Toth

30 ***We would find a place to store the equipment - Stewart***

31
32 ***Dan Golden asked Chief Heath if he had a plan in place - the***
33 ***answer was "yes"***

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35
36 New Business - none

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38 **Town Administrator's Report**

- 39
 - Thanked all involved with Christmas Night in Ashland
 - HEAL forum to be held January 28 - 6:30 PM - Tri County CAP
 - Financial Forum held December 12
 - New flashing to be installed around chimney on town hall building
 - Ashland student Bryn Donovan will represent NH in the "People to People Program" this summer - fundraising will be done
 - TA having performance evaluation done by Board

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49 **Department Head Report**

50 **Fire Department - Chief Heath**

51 **Several fireman have completed training classes**
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4 Select Board Items

- 5 ▪ The Board reviewed the following warrant article:

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7 To see if the town will adopt the provisions of RSA 261:153, V to authorize the collection of an
8 additional fee for motor vehicle registrations in the amount of \$5.00 to be used for the purpose of
9 municipal transportation improvements, to fund, wholly or in part, improvements in the local or
10 regional transportation system, including roads, bridges, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parking
11 and intermodal facilities and public transportation. This fee shall be collected starting with motor
12 vehicle registration permits issued on or after May 1, 2013.

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14
15 **The following article would establish the CRF.**

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18 To see if the Town will vote to create a capital reserve fund entitles the Ashland Municipal
19 Transportation Fund to be used for the funding of improvements to local or regional transportation
20 systems according to RSA 261:153, VI (a); to designate the Selectmen as agents to expend monies
21 from this fund. This fund to be funded by the amount of municipal transportation fees collected
22 during the calendar year.

23
24 It was the consensus of the Board to move forward to have this article on
25 the warrant; it will be sent to legal for correct wording and a public
26 hearing will be held before the February 2 deliberative session.

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29 Taken by Patricia Tucker

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33 Non Public

34 ***Motion to go into non public per RSA 91-A:3 II(c) at 7:33 PM -***
35 ***Stewart; second Preston; roll call vote Golden - yes; Preston - yes; Stewart***
36 ***- yes***

37 Others present - TA Paul Branscombe
38 Board reviewed evaluations for TA Branscombe

39
40 ***Motion to exit non public at 8:01 PM - Golden; second - Stewart;***
41 ***vote 3-0***

42
43 Chairman Stewart announced the result of the meeting was that the
44 Board will go over TA Branscombe's contract at the beginning of April.

45
46
47 Taken by Jeanette I. Stewart

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49 ***Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM***

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