

ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

June 27, 2013

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: M. Badger, S. Coleman, I. Heidenreich, F. Newton, D. Ruell, M. Scarano,
D. Toth,

MEMBERS ABSENT: J. Stewart

ALTERNATES PRESENT: Renee Liebert (school board); N. DeWolfe, (BOS)

Others present: Chief A. Randall, Police Department; Chief S. Heath, Fire Department;

P. Temperino, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; E. Badger, resident

Meeting called to order at 6:02 P.M. in the Ashland Town Library, quorum present.

Secretary's report to follow an overview of the collective bargaining agreement presented by T. Temperino and M. Badger

The following is an overview of the Proposed Ashland Teacher's Association and the Ashland School Board Agreement presented to the Budget Committee by T. Temperino and M. Badger:

1. Salary: Exclusive of step increases, the agreement calls for:
 - a. Year 1: 1.5% increase, estimated cost of \$34,868.00
 - b. Year 2: 2.00% increase, estimated cost of \$41,291.00
 - c. Year 3: 2.00% increase, estimated cost of \$43,794.00

On average, salaries will increase by 3.27% per year, sixty one (61%) of Ashland's teachers are at the top step and do not receive a step increase.

2. Health Insurance: The new agreement offers teachers a choice in health plans:
 - a. Comp 1000 will continue to be an option for all teachers hired before June 30, 2013. The district will pay 87% of the premium.
 - b. Blue CrossBC2T20 will be offered. The district will pay 94% of the premium.
 - c. Mathew Thornton Blue MTB20 will be offered. The district will pay 95% of the premium.

With the above three (3) programs, the prescription plan will be \$10/\$20/\$45.

These changes are estimated to provide cost savings over the current plan of \$12,000.00 in the first year.

3. Professional Improvement: The agreement calls for an increase of \$2000.00 in year three of the agreement to the overall pool amount for tuition, workshop, conferences, and other professional growth activities. These funds are distributed to the staff members to the Association.
4. Life insurance will increase from a term \$10,000.00 policy to a \$30,000.00 policy at a cost of \$1,210.00.

Motion made by D. Ruell, second by F. Newton, in compliance with the provision of RSA 40:13, the Budget Committee will hold a public hearing on the proposed collective bargaining agreement between the

Ashland School Board and the Ashland Teachers Association for 2013-2014 on July 11 in the school cafeteria.

Vote 9-0

Motion made by D .Ruell, second by S .Coleman **To Recommend** this agreement. **Hand vote 9-0.**

Secretary's Report: Draft minutes from 8 May 2013 meeting were reviewed. Motion made by D. Ruell, second by F. Newton to accept the minutes. Discussion followed:

Statement made by S .Coleman: "At the May 8th meeting, P. Tucker had **Actual & Budgeted Expenses & Encumbrance** dated May 3rd. P. Tucker received her copy at department head meeting on Friday. The Budget Committee requested certain financial statements and previously told, by the Town Office, the committee would not be able to receive requested financials until after the second Monday of the month and not until reconciled. The Budget Committee has not received financials, requested in writing and more than several times verbally. The Board of Selectmen under RSA 32:22 has violated Budget Law. RSA 32:12 states anyone who violates Municipal Budget Law may be removed from office by Superior Court under petition. S. Coleman called LGC for confirmation stating she would take the Board of Selectmen to court. As a citizen and tax payer, S. Coleman requested the same financials under the Right to Know Law, 91 A. S. Coleman did not receive the requested financials and was told by P. Tucker (Town Clerk), "Anita was working on them." If unable to comply with a request within 5 business days, denying the request must be in writing and with reasons. S. Coleman did not receive anything in writing. Several RSA's (91-A and Budget Law) given to N.DeWolfe.

Budget Committee members, M. Scarano, F. Newton, D. Toth, and I. Heidenreich also voiced their frustration, concerns, also mentioning accountability. N. DeWolfe asked several questions concerning the process of requests. He also stated he received **Actual & Budgeted Expenses & Encumbrance** every week. M. Scarano cited what financials the Budget Committee have asked for and what was received. The consensus from the Budget Committee is to have better communication between the Budget Committee and the Board of Selectmen and have asked for N. DeWolfe's support.

Amendments:

P. Tucker stated she would send us the financials we requested the next day, May 9th.

Clarification of the date for the Budget Committee to meet with the school regarding a new contract.

Vote 7-0 with two abstentions

Chief Randall: Police Department overview

Overall budget is good

Police training -- money encumbered from last year and removed

New officer hired full time is now part-time status per his request.

Full time and part time position open

New cruiser - \$25540.00 Warrant Article \$25000.00

Approximately \$15000 to \$16000 to outfit new cruiser, money to be taken from various lines within Police Department budget

Union Contract was discussed -- Police Department has a copy

Budget Committee has requested a copy of Union Contract, at this time does not have a copy. Chief Randall stated he had a copy of the union contract.

Freeze discussed, essential items only purchased; Department Heads have a \$750.00 limit for single purchase

Discussion of matching grants

Chief Heath: Fire Department overview

Overall budget is on target

Training 'on hold' due to possible grant.

Fire Department roof discussion

Re-breathing masks tested

Suggests contracted services line item heading

Further Business:

Town Trustees will not be attending the Budget Committee tonight. E-mail sent to R. Pare and cc to T. Peters and E. Dupuis for a meeting on July 27th for a financial review/ 'informational exchange'.

Discussion of Anita Trealor attending the Budget Committee meetings

Concern is the expense of Anita attending budget meetings and what information can she provide that is not on the financials.

Financial Forum 18th September

Meet one week prior to forum on 12th September to discuss material, do a 'dry run', and attempt to anticipate questions from those attending.

8th August additional meeting.

Budget Committee meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra A. Coleman