

Approved: 4/10/2017

Voted: 4-0-0

## ASHFIELD FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Date: 4/5/2017

Meeting called to order: 7:30 pm

Meeting adjourned: 9:27 pm

Members present: Mary Fitz-Gibbon, Melinda Gougeon, Carol Lebold,  
Ted Murray, Carl Satterfield

Also present: Tom Carter, Ashfield Selectman

No minutes were presented for approval.

### **Business**

Chairman Murray circulated a working copy of Ashfield FY2018 Draft Budget Report and identified budget items that changed relative to the source of funding. These included TH Building Committee Expense, Transfer Station Improvements, Town Re-wiring Project, Highway – Bridge Related Work and Broadband. In addition to the budget draft report Selectman Carter distributed a summary worksheet designating suggested items to be funded from Free Cash. These included Highland Ambulance, Town Hall Steeple/Repairs, Highway Pick-up Truck, Bridge Repair Expenses, Senior Center Expense, Broadband and Park Commission Equipment. The Committee then tried to reconcile various entries on the draft budget form but had difficulty in doing so. After an extended period of time working on reconciliation it was decided to have the figures reviewed by Chairman Murray, Selectman Carter and Administrator Warren at a later date and brought back for review at some point in the near future.

L. Gougeon described her work collecting data from F1908 to F1917 budgets to make comparisons of a wide range of expense items over the identified period of time. She indicated that the results were very interesting and that she would send copies to members of the committee by email to be used in the future committee deliberations.

C. Satterfield outlined several concepts that might be helpful in rethinking the Committee's approach for budgeting in the future such as managing future debt and identifying items/areas of future need requiring significant expense (up-dating

technology, maintenance of buildings and roads, costing future retirement liability, etc.).

Selectman Carter talked briefly about possible future changes at the town transfer station.

Chairman Murray reminded members of the next scheduled committee meeting on Monday (4/10/17) and the Budget Hearing meeting on Tuesday (4/18/17) which will be held after the scheduled Special Town Meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 5, 0, 0.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carl Satterfield

Attachments:

1. Agenda for 4/5/2017
2. Ashfield FY2018 Draft Budget Report
3. T. Carter worksheet