

Town of Ashfield
Select Board and Finance Committee budget meeting
February 08, 2016

The Select Board and Finance Committee had a joint meeting for the purpose of a 2017 budget discussion. The meeting was held at the Ashfield Town Hall in the Main Hall on February 08, 2016 at 7:00 PM. There was one audio recorder at the meeting.

Select Board: Chair -Tom Carter. Vice Chair- Ron Coler, Todd Olanyk

Finance Committee: Ted Murray-Chair, Carol Lebold, Lindy Gougeon

Town Administrator: Kayce Warren

Asst. Municipal Clerk/Scribe: Lynn Taylor

This meeting was to discuss the budgets for the following departments: Del Haskins-**Fire Department**, Diane Wilder-**Police Department**, Pat Thayer-**Highland Ambulance**, Marcine Appel and Caroline Murray- **Library**, Sandy Lilly and Amy Shapiro- **Assessors**.

SB meeting called to order @ 7:05 PM

Fin. Comm. meeting called to order @ 7:05 PM

FIRE DEPARTMENT:

Haskins gives an overview of his FY17 budget which is level funded. Showing increases of 2 % cost of living increase, yet reducing the heating costs. Del discusses his “wish” with the Boards which consist of a new 10ft ladder that failed, replacement of pagers, medical equipment and AED which would be \$3000.00, the floor of the station needs repairs.

Haskins expressed how grateful the Department is to have some funding help from the association and from an anonymous donation which allowed him to purchase air bottles and some fire hose.

The Federal grant for fire truck in the amount of \$350K was submitted about two weeks ago is still out there no word back yet.

Ted Murray asks for clarification on the mileage line item. Haskins explains that was done a few years back when he wanted to get a fire vehicle it was decided to pay mileage instead. See budget books

POLICE DEPARTMENT:

Wilder gives an overview of her FY17 budget which shows increases in wages 2%, training, materials & supplies, and insurance a total increase of \$2609.92.

Discussion of Wilder's wish list for the Department which consists of the purchase of a new Ford SUV cruiser which carries roughly a \$40K price tag and an increase in hours for the part time officers. Carter would like Wilder to run some figures for replacing the part time officers with one full time officer. Carter would like to know the mileage on both cruisers and the year of the explorer she is looking to replace, and get accurate figures of new replacement and figures to go through the explorer to bring it back up to workable condition to get through another year. See budget books

She explains to the Boards that Officers have been out early mornings running radar during the morning commute on Creamery Rd, Main Street, and Rte. 116. A lot of warnings and tickets have been issued to drivers.

HIGHLAND AMBULANCE:

They had no one available to attend the meeting as they had their own meeting. See budget books

LIBRARY:

Marcine Appel and Caroline Murray give an overview of the FY17 Library budget. They are looking at an increase in the Town appropriation of \$2005.00 a 4.7% increase over FY16. They continue discussion with the Boards regarding capital campaign, capital projects, increased use of the Library, and the driveway project. Murray advises that Amy Shapiro has offered to help the Library with applying for grants. See budget books

ASSESSORS:

Sandy Lilly and Amy Shapiro give an overview of the Assessors budget. Which includes increases in the three contracts and a 2% cost of living for Assessors clerk. For a total overall increase of \$781.00 to the FY17 budget. A discussion is

had pertaining to excess overlay Kayce asked to meet with Lilly in regards to this issue and actually looking into releasing some of the excess. See budget books

SCHOOL COMMITTEE PREVIEW:

Poppy Doyle has a discussion with the Board in regards to the Mohawk School budget and the shortfall that they are looking at for FY17. This will amount to an increase in Ashfields assessment of around \$150K. Poppy advises the School Committee has approached Kuzmeskus trying to get the busing cost down seeing that fuel is at an all-time low they refuse to move at all. The school Committee does not want to deplete the E&D account so they feel they cannot take any more from there to help lower the budget. Poppy suggest writing a letter to the superintendent regarding Ashfield's assessment and the inability to pay such an increase as proposed for FY17. Carter advises he will contact the Superintendent by phone rather than a letter. The budget as stated right now is out of reach for Ashfield. Coler and Murray will be attending the budget meeting at Mohawk on February 10, 2016. Poppy asked to have herself and Emily Robertson put on an upcoming agenda to discuss the outcome of the meeting on the 10th.

Kayce has spoken with Town Clerk Ann Dunne regarding questions and debt exclusions for Town meeting. March 14, 2016 is the last day to get warrant questions and debt exclusions to her for the election in May.

MINUTES:

Select Board Minutes January 25, 2016: Coler makes a motion to approve the minutes of 01/25/2016 as submitted, seconded by Carter. **VOTE: 3-0-0 (document 2)**

Select Board and Finance Committee Budget meeting minutes of February 01, 2016: Coler makes a motion to approve the minutes of 02/01/2016 as submitted, seconded by Carter. **VOTE 2-0-1(TO)**

Murray makes a motion to approve the minutes of 02/01/2016 as submitted, seconded by Carol Lebold. **VOTE: 3-0-0 (document 3)**

Finance Committee adjourns their meeting at 9:50 PM

Next Budget discussion will be February 17, 2016 at 7PM

WARRANTS:

Vendor Warrant W16-17 dated February 8, 2016 (**document 4**)

Payroll Warrant WP16-17 dated February 8, 2016 (**document 5**)

Update on Conservation Permitting requirements at the Ashfield lake-Ron

Coler: Coler advises this year permitting will need to be done to have the fanwort removed. Coler will get the application process started and be applying for the NOI on behalf of the Town as there will then be no fees for permitting. He has been to a Conservation Comm. meeting and met with Mark Stinson. The permit for the Asian Chestnut removal is good for another three years.

Town Hall use application request: Jane Willis is requesting the use of upper hall on the following dates 02/21/2016, 3/20/2016, 5/01/2016, 6/26/2016 to hold Contra dances all dances will be held from 2-7 Pm. **MOTION:** Cater makes a motion to approve the Town Hall use application as submitted, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0 (document 6)**

Belding Library roof procurement project: Contract with the FRCOG regarding Belding Roof Procurement needs to be signed it is for the amount of \$1350.00 which includes \$600.00 from last fall for the construction architect. The Board votes to sign with their signatures. (**document 7**)

ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:

- **Franklin County Homecare is now referred to as LifePath**
- **Colrain has put out RFP for the last mile network.**
- **STM meeting presentation by MIIA regarding workers Comp. will be Thursday February 11, 2016**

LIAISON REPORTS:

Carter advises he has spoken to Brian Dickinson regarding a complaint in regards to his West Rd property that contains old cars as well as other things. He had to get them off of the Graves property quickly and that is where he had to put them. Brian promised he would have things cleaned up by September 1, 2016. Carter asked Warren to draft a letter to Brian restating the discussion that took place and that he will have things cleaned up by September 1, 2016.

No public comment

Request for strategic planning appoint will be put on the meeting for February 17, 2016 for discussion.

Coler makes a motion to adjourn at 10:15 PM, seconded by Olanyk.

Adjourned at 10:15 PM

Document List

1. Agenda for 02/08/2016
2. Select Board Minutes January 25, 2016
3. Select Board and Finance Committee Budget meeting minutes of February 01, 2016
4. Vendor Warrant W16-17 dated February 8, 2016
5. Payroll Warrant WP16-17 dated February 8, 2016
6. Town Hall use application for Jane Willis
7. Contract with the FRCOG regarding Belding Roof Procurement
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