



Ashfield Select Board Meeting

Monday, October 16, 2017, 7:00

Ashfield Town Hall, 412 Main Street, Ashfield MA 01330

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Select Board was held in Town Hall at 7:00 PM.

Present: Todd Olanyk, Chair; Tom Carter; and Ron Coler.

Also Present: Bridget Rodrigue, Town Clerk; Beth Bezio, Chief of Police; Dan Thibault, Police Officer; Del Haskins, Fire Chief; Emily Robertson, MTRSD School Committee; Poppy Doyle, MTRSD School Committee; Rick Chandler, Mohawk Trails Woodlands Partnership; Jim Cutler, resident; Kyle Taylor, resident; and Brian Clark, Green Community Committee.

Olanyk convened the Select Board meeting at 7:00 pm, with one recording device.

Consent Agenda –

Minutes	October 2, 2017	As submitted
Warrants	W18-09 Payroll & Vendor	

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda: Coler

Second: Olanyk Vote: 3-0-0

Appointments with Select Board

A. Chief Bezio – Officer Appointment

Chief Bezio is present to request that Officer Thibault be appointed to Sergeant. She prepared a Memorandum for the Board that highlights his law enforcement background. Bezio stated that Officer Thibault has been an officer with Ashfield for more than a year and in that time, has proven to be an asset to the department.

When asked about his background, Officer Thibault stated law enforcement has been his lifelong career. For the past 24 years, he has been employed as a full-time dispatcher with the Town of Hadley. Thibault stated he has also worked security for the Big E and as a part-time officer in both Ashfield and Leyden. Thibault said he is currently helping the chief with scheduling and other items, and believes this title change will help solidify his position with the other officers. Currently, Officer Thibault works between 12-20 hours in Ashfield, and these hours do not overlap with the Chief's.

Chief Bezio stated if appointed Sergeant, Officer Thibault will be the Second-in-Command and will cover for the Chief during vacations and other times when the Chief may be out of Town. She feels comfortable giving him this responsibility and stated it is important for the department to have a first line supervisor.

Carter asked how this appointment will be handled in the budget and Chief Bezio stated at this time no change will be made to Officer Thibault's hourly rate. If a change is to take place, it will be done during the FY19 budget planning process. Olanyk stated he hoped the Chief is cognizant of the high probability that an increase in Thibault's rate of pay may need to come out of another

line item in the department's budget. Carter reminded the Chief of the big adjustments made to the Police Department's budget last year and stated he does not want to see a large adjustment this upcoming fiscal year. Chief stated she is aware of this, and will work to figure out what is best for the Town.

Motion to approve appointment: Carter

Second: Coler Vote: 3-0-0

Olanyk received feedback from Fall Festival and said overall it was positive. One issue that was brought to the Board's attention that needs more thought and management was the closure of South Street. Residents stated they were not notified and were unhappy with how this was handled. Olanyk would like the Chief to draft a standard operating procedure regarding road closures and/or access restrictions to determine how these types of situations will be handled in the future. Bezio will draft an SOP for this type of situation. Overall, Bezio stated Fall Festival was well-staffed and there were no major issues. When asked if she could stay within the budget, she stated she was.

B. Rick Chandler, Jim Cutler – Ashfield Municipal Energy Assessment (MTWP)

The Woodlands Partnership started approximately 4-5 years ago. The main goal of this partnership is working together to help the local economy. There have been many groups, especially environmental groups, that have been formed based on ideas from the Woodlands Partnership.

Jim Cutler said the Center for Energy Extension (CEE) is a new entity at UMASS that is one spin-off from this partnership. The CEE recently looked at Town of Ashfield, and has developed a report to help us with an overall understanding of how we are doing in regard to energy consumption/usage. Compared to other towns in this area, the Town of Ashfield is doing well. This is in part due to the work of the Green Communities Committee. This report provides a clear understanding of areas we need to focus on. The report singled out the Highway Department and transportation as areas where positive results could be obtained with some effort.

It was suggested that the Highway Department consider an air stratification system for temperature control in the highway garage. This system would use large diameter fans to move the air, which allows for more efficient temperature control. With regards to transportation, Cutler suggests looking at the use of vehicles being driven, mileage being accrued, and the vehicles themselves. Reduce mileage by planning and combining trips, and look into more efficiency with current vehicles by looking into hydrogen generation. Application of this technology for diesel fueled vehicles is simpler than other vehicles. This is something that is being used on buses and has merit in so far as researching to see if we are able to consider this further.

Brian Clark just read the report and wanted to let Cutler know that the Green Communities is financing an assessment of the heating system in the library. Current system is not appropriate for the building, and they are looking at a changing over to a more efficient system. Right now, diesel/gas is the largest expense, with the Highway Department being the largest user of this fuel. Clark agrees work needs to be done at the highway garage, but stated it is more complicated than it seems.

Chandler also informed the Select Board about a study being conducted by students at the University of Massachusetts looking at stack emissions from various fuel sources in the area. The truck that studies this data can be parked on the street and left to gather data. He feels this will be a useful tool. Chandler also discussed a WPI study where some students took on a project looking at wood connections that found web access to be critical. Chandler also discussed the situation with Berkshire East. No longer just a winter ski destination, their summer season now comprises 50% of their annual income.

The umbrella of 21 towns in the Woodlands Partnership is something special. The whole Route 2 corridor is working together to help the economics in this area. Meetings are held at Berkshire East and the room is always full. Cutler said biggest issue here is education. Chandler stated they are working on updating some of the fact sheets. Coler asked what is next, and Chandler answered that there is not a lot of excess money so the partnership is waiting for politics and priorities to catch up.

Coler would like to have the CEE report on the website because it is so informative. Cutler sees the CEE as a good reliable partner and fully intends to implement and derive all the benefits we can from them.

C. Emily Robertson/Poppy Doyle – MTRSD School Committee Update

Olanyk asked Robertson and Doyle about the heterogenous classes. Robertson informed the Board that the Superintendent has been working hard on this issue and has hired a third party to research this model. Robertson stated the School Committee is committed to this model. Doyle stated the heterogenous model started three years ago by having experts train the teachers during professional development time. Communication could have been better but Doyle feels the issue has more to do with change from previous practices. Mohawk decided to slow down the math curriculum because key math skills are not retained when you go through math quickly.

There are currently approximately 400 students in grades 7-12 at Mohawk Regional. The district elementary schools are reaching capacity, and work is being done to move approximately 80 6th graders to Mohawk. Coler asked if anyone has looked at incoming pre-school class sizes. Doyle stated there is a wave coming. Coler asked if Buckland Shelburne is seeing a similar bump and Doyle said yes. Doyle also stated Phase 3, closing of Colrain, might need to be reassessed after crunching these numbers.

Robertson said inviting Rowe to join and being turned down has opened discussion regarding a tuition agreement. There is a tuition negotiation task force looking into the new formula for tuition. Rowe's numbers are going down, with only 18 students from Rowe at Mohawk this year.

The School Committee voted to accept the VEAC amendment. Robertson and Doyle felt the booklet is well written and David Newell did a great job. The School Committee is also done with teacher contract negotiations. There will be an 8.3% increase over three years and equity in the steps. A big part of budget is trying to manage the health insurance costs. GIC is a better deal for Mohawk. On November 6th, the ceiling for the budget will be given. A Public Hearing on budget is scheduled for February 7th. The School Committee does not anticipate any capital requests. The transportation contract is almost up (ends June 2019), so the School Committee is looking at costs to operate in-house transportation. Carter said there are no longer a lot of kids riding the bus and wanted to know why we have them if no one is going to have their kids riding them. Robertson said this concern has come up and DESE said they are willing to work with us on the seating requirements. Might be able to do something like VEAC where parents signed off

if they were going to drive their kids to school. The School Committee will be meeting with financial advisors about OPEB requirements. The District can open an account with no money to show that we are thinking and planning for OPEB. Things are beginning to appear more positive. Robertson also announced she will not be running again and is working hard to find a new recruit.

Discussion/Decision Items

A. Parks Commission Capital Projects Funds – Diving Board; equipment

Select Board is in favor of the diving board, as stated in previous meetings.

B. Proposed VEAC Amendment to MTRSD Regional Agreement

Select Board was given a handout to look over regarding the proposed VEAC amendment.

C. Invasive Weeds Update

Coler reminded the Board of the Invasive Weeds Public Hearing scheduled for November 13, 2017. A notice was in the Ashfield News, and Coler said he feels residents are being open-minded.

D. Mold Remediation Update - *None*

E. Salary Study Update- *None*

F. Broadband Project Status Update –*None*

G. Large Scale Development & Local Roads Preservation, Recreational Marijuana Bylaws

Coler sent out an invitation for this working group and was asked by the Planning Board to attend their October 4, 2017 meeting. Coler discussed the purpose of this bylaw working group and felt it was viewed positively by the Planning Board members. Rick Chandler and Ken Miller have both agreed to join the working group. Three meeting dates have been scheduled. All postings will follow the open meeting law guidelines.

Coler also spoke about the temporary marijuana moratorium and the Planning Board is planning to take a vote on this at a future meeting. Planning Board will notify the Select Board if they decide not to address this issue.

Town Administrator's Report - *None*

Mail

Select Board is disappointed the Fire Department was not selected for the truck and turnout gear grants. Recommend looking at tips on site to increase changes for approval next grant cycle.

Public Comments – *None*

Items Not Anticipated:

Tom Poissant request the Select Board act on a Memorandum recommending that Cody Belval and Todd Senecal be retained in their positions, having met the goals and expectations of their introductory period.

Motion to approve recommendation to retain Cody Belval and Todd Senecal:

Carter Second: Coler Vote: 3-0-0

Upcoming meetings – October 30th

Carter asked to schedule the Finance Committee to come before the Select Board to make sure everyone is on the same page before budget season starts. Warren will send an email asking if the Finance Committee is available to meet on November 13, 2017.

Adjourn – 8:59 pm

Motion to adjourn 8:59 pm: Olanyk

Second: Carter Vote: 3-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,



Bridget S. Rodrigue
Town Clerk

Document List:

1. Agenda for October 16, 2017
2. Police Department Memo Regarding D. Thibault (Appointment to Sergeant)
3. Email thread regarding Municipal Energy Analysis
4. Municipal Energy Assessment
5. RSC Advances – Effects on Emissions of a Diesel Engine
6. Mohawk Trail Regional School District FY19 Budget Meeting Schedule
7. Email regarding Capital Expenditures pertaining to the Parks Commission
8. VEAC Booklet
9. AE Commercial Diving Services – Ashfield Lake Boat Survey Findings
10. Town Meeting and Election Schedule – Spring 2018
11. MMA Cannabis Control Commission Listening Sessions
12. Turndown Notification for Fire Protective Equipment
13. Turndown Notification for Tanker/Tender Vehicle
14. Memorandum from Tom Poissant – October 16, 2017