

Ashfield Select Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 02, 2012

Present: Select Board- Norman Russell, Chair; Doug Field, Paullette Leukhardt
Interim Executive Administrator: Mary Fitz-Gibbon

Meeting Opened at 7:05pm

Minutes:

No minutes available.

Appointments:

Emily Robertson, School Committee

Emily gives an update on the development of the Mohawk budget. The final MTRSD budget is not approved yet.

Possibly there will be a \$16, 000 budget reduction from last year for the Town. The deadline for Town input is March 1, 2012.

Personnel Board:

Dave DeHerdt, Chair of the Personnel Board (PB), Ricki Carroll, Finance Committee member of the Personnel Board and Paullette Leukhardt, Select Board member of the PB all in attendance.

Dave DeHerdt presents the Executive Administrator job description to be advertised.

Field asks if anyone at Town Hall office is in a supervisory role.

Russell replies that Town Clerk supervises the Assistant Municipal Clerk.

Russell initiates discussion about the qualifications required.

DeHerdt replies that the job description is written to open it up to some more flexibility.

Leukhardt says an email address, personnelboard@ashfield.org may be used to apply online for the position.

Both Russell and Leukhardt express concern about being in budget season; it was suggested the person hired could start after budget season is over.

DeHerdt says he is concerned about Town Hall staff working beyond their budgeted hours, he feels it could open the town up to unfair labor practices charges. It was suggested a special line

item be added to the budget to cover extra hours worked - such as Elections. The Highway has a budget to cover overtime hours.

DeHerdt says the PB has created time/task sheets for employees and is also working on updating the Personnel Policies Manual.

South River Watershed Project Update:

Kimberly MacPhee, FRCOG and Dr. John Field are present to discuss the South River Watershed Project.

MacPhee gave an overview and a bit of project history. The retaining wall by on Rte. 116 in South Ashfield is undergoing its third repair.

Doug Field thanked Kimberly for all her work on the project, especially as FEMA said they cannot touch the problems that happen on private property.

Dr. John Field showed slides of the history of South River from the 1700's forward with a focus on Ashfield.

Tropical Storm Irene reminds everyone of the problems of erosion of the land along the banks of waterways and the potential for the washing out of roads and bridges.

The down-stream transfer problems effect not just land but fish habitat as well. The fish habitat assessment was postponed a year after Tropical Storm Irene so as to get a more typical picture not a post-event picture of fish habitat in the river.

There was discussion of ways to reduce problems further downstream and to preserve the land along the river

Leukhardt states that she would like a focus on the banks and bridges along Bullitt Road.

Old Business:

Review of Special Town Meeting warrant.

Discussed: Plainfield pays a School Committee stipend of \$500.00. Ashfield has two elected school committee members; they do not currently receive a stipend although they put in significant, ongoing volunteer hours with very many required meetings

New Business:

Mutual Aid Agreement

VOTE: Motion to sign a Mutual Aid Agreement with area towns, seconded, passes.

Presidential Primary Proclamation:

Russell reads the proclamation; all three SB members sign.

Liaison Reports:

Leukhardt reports she is working with the Fire Chief Del Haskins on the Fire Department budget.

Leukhardt proposes increasing the rates for the on-call fire-fighters.

The request for a new fire truck will be a debt-exclusion question on the local election ballot and will be also be an article to be voted on the floor of Annual Town Meeting. For purchase of a new fire truck to be approved will passage on both the election ballot and on Town Meeting floor is required.

Mail:

Information on requirements for allowing remote participation of committee or board members in conformity with Open Meeting Law regulations.

Motion to adjourn, seconded, and passes.

Meeting closes at 10:05 p.m.

