

Town of Ashfield - Select Board

Meeting Minutes

February 13, 2013

The Select Board meeting was held on Wednesday February 13, 2013 at the Ashfield Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. by Paulette Leukhardt.

Select Board – Paulette Leukhardt, Ron Coler Executive Administrator – Mary Fitz-Gibbon

Minutes

Discussion and revisions to draft minutes for February 6, 2013.

(Document 1) - Statement for February 13, 2013 at Select Board Meeting

Budget Hearings

Chair of the Finance Committee, Ted Murray, asked if he could read a statement into the record before the start of the budget meeting. Reading, he explained that, as Chair, he had failed to get the meeting posted the full 48 hours ahead of the meeting and that, therefore, those members of the Finance Committee who were present would participate as audience members only and that no meeting of the Finance Committee would take place. Addressing the possibility of an Open Meeting Law Complaint being filed, he said that, if one was to be filed, it should be filed against him, however, he went on to reference The Municipal Advocate and the Attorney General's Open Meeting Law Guide to lay out the justification for Finance Committee members' continued presence at the meeting as individual citizens.

Historical Commission (Document 2) - Steve Gougeon, Chair of the Historical Commission represented the Historical Commission budget discussion and questions from Select Board and members of the audience.

Animal Control (Document 3) - Warren Kirkpatrick, Animal Control Officer, spoke regarding other expenses. Discussion and questions from Select Board and members of the audience.

Emergency Management Director (Document 4) – Doug Field Emergency Management Director spoke regarding the EMD budget as well as a special request to fund a line for matching grant expenditures (Document 5) saying that he was withdrawing the special request as it would affect the levy limit and could be managed differently, as has been done in the past. He discussed examples of such grants describing a current one from MEMA that will be used to buy a generator that would service both the Fire Department and Town Hall. Discussion and questions from Select Board and members of the audience.

Water District Assessment (Document 6) - Projected Assessment of water use for Town Buildings. Betty Stewart spoke regarding lower assessment for FY2014.

Conservation Commission (Document 7) Lester Garvin, Commission Chair, represented and answered questions from the Select Board and the audience members pertaining to the requested budget. Mr. Garvin explained that the budget is dependent on how many applications are submitted and hearings held in a given year.

Sewer Commission (Document 8) – Leukhardt explained the Sewer Budget worksheet by listing the expenses with a total for FY2014. Discussion and questions from the audience. The sewer treatment plant budget is self-sustaining.

Discussion on posting the meeting for February 20, 2013 at Mohawk for the Mohawk School Budget Hearing and continuing the meeting after the Mohawk School Public Hearing. Coler to contact school committee members to make them aware that the boards will continue to meet after the public hearing.

MOTION: A motion was made by Coler to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m., seconded by Leukhardt.

VOTE: Leukhardt- Aye, Coler- Aye

Document List

1. Statement for February 13 from Ted Murray, Finance Committee Chair
2. Historical Commission Proposed Budget
3. Animal Control Proposed Budget
4. Emergency Manager Proposed Budget
5. Special Request Emergency Manager
6. Ashfield Water District Assessment of Town Buildings
7. Conservation Commission Proposed Budget
8. Sewer Commission Proposed Budget