

6/22/11 SB

Approved
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**Select Board Meeting
June 13, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Present: Select Board – Norm Russell, Doug Field, Paullette Leukhardt
Executive Administrator – Mary Fitz-Gibbon

Appointments:

Council on Aging; present – Wayne Wickland, David Gold

Mr. Gold passed out copies of a letter, which he proceeded to read. (see attached) In the letter, the local Council on Aging requested that the Select Board write a letter of intent stating that Ashfield plans to withdraw from the agreement of the Shelburne Senior Center consortium. It further states that the Town of Ashfield wishes to continue as a member of the consortium, but under a new arrangement that would be a true regional West County Consortium of Councils on Aging. It goes on to say this action is intended to hasten the reorganization necessary to realize the goals of the strategic plan and lists some of the goals.

Mr. Field asked if this is what Colrain was doing. Was Colrain withdrawing from the agreement, but intending to continue as a member of the consortium? The answer is, yes. Field also said he read something about Hawley establishing a Council on Aging. He wondered if Hawley was interested in joining. He was told that at this time Hawley appeared to be a stand alone council.

During the discussion that followed it was pointed out that as currently configured the Consortium functions as a department of the Town of Shelburne. As such, when Shelburne gave its town employees a 2% raise, the staff of the consortium was included. This added a cost to the consortium budget that had not been planned. Mr. Gold expressed the feeling that his group wants the strategic plan to work; Ashfield wants to stay in the consortium, but with a better agreement that will allow growth – adding towns and programs in the various towns, rather than just in Shelburne.

Old Business:

Reappointments for FY'12 – The Town Clerk has provided a revised list which the board will consider at its June 22nd meeting.

Revised Park Commission Policy -

At the request of the Select Board to be very clear in the park policy about what the duties of the lifeguards are, the following statement was included in the revised policy: "At no time will this policy compromise the primary duty of the lifeguards which is to maintain a safe swimming and beach front environment." The Board would like something included to indicate that guests of residents could use the beach with some sort of evidence. Suggestions made at the previous week included several things including a note from the resident.

Special Town Meeting -

Field reported that MEMA will not be reimbursing expenses under \$5,000 for emergency support.

There are seven articles to be placed before the Town:

Article 1 will transfer \$1,000 from Short Term Interest to pay the fee to join WiredWest. The Town has voted on two occasions to participate.

Article 2 to transfer \$9,471.68 from Employee Vacation/Personal and \$1,210.52 from unemployment Insurance to the sick leave account. The purpose of doing this is to complete the payment of funds obligated to some employees when the Town changed its policy of permitting sick leave time to accumulate until employees terminated their working relationship, either through retirement or leaving town employ. The current policy limits the number of sick days an employee is allowed to accrue. The other change to this policy is that while previously at the beginning of each year all of the allotted number of sick days were available at once, now every month/ or quarter only a portion of the time becomes available.

Article 3 will transfer \$4,500 from the police fuel account to a police cruiser account. The purpose of this is to get money that is already in the Police budget in a position to use it toward a new/replacement police vehicle.

Article 4 transfers \$3,500 from free cash to the Assessors Expense account. This replaces funds that were erroneously removed .

Article 5 to pay the three fire department personnel who provided mutual aid to the disaster area following the tornado.

Article 6 The purpose of this article is to get the Town's approval to use \$30,000 form Grant Program Income money to an account for use in making needed improvements to Town Hall.

Article 7 would provide additional funding in the SelectBoard expense account . Monies would come from Town Report Expense and Unemployment Expense accounts. This is mostly used for preparation of minutes.

The Board signed three copies of the warrant.

They then took time to decide who would present each article at the STM.

Highway Department - Mr. Field had a request from the Highway Superintendent to transfer \$5,000 from the highway fuel account to the machinery account to pay for repairs to the grader and to cover the cost of acquiring the surplus grader. Ms. Fitz-Gibbon has put a call out to Tom Carter, Finance Committee Chair, to find out when the next meeting of that board is scheduled, as this request can be granted with the approval of both the Select Board and the Finance Committee. Field made a motion, seconded by Ms. Leukhardt, and unanimously voted to transfer \$5,000, as requested. The Board signed the request. Finance Committee approval is now needed.

Liaison Reports

Fire Department - Approval has been obtained from the Conservation Commission for the installation of a dry hydrant. The Fire Chief is working on submission of a 50/50 grant application. Some fire fighters participated in a driver training class. Drivers who do not have CDL licenses must take the training to be qualified to drive the fire trucks.

Mr. Field reported that a Quick-attack fire truck small truck costs around \$175,000.

Police Department – Ms. Leukhardt said she passed some information on bullet proof vests on to the Chief.

Other

Mr. Russell reported that the town has received another credit of \$1,000 from the Unemployment Insurance.

Mr. Field and Ms. Leukhardt will attend the FC Selectmen's Association meeting. The time and amount are not known. There will be information about regional dispatch for emergency services.

Future meetings

Chief Droney will be in next week to discuss police policies.

Andrew Wells will be in to update the Board on the wind siting committee.

Buzz will probably come in to go over the warrant articles.

Public Comments

The suggestion was made that when someone reads a letter, as was done at this meeting, that the letter be submitted directly to the papers. That way people could read what was written rather than someone's opinion, possibly to get headlines "and stuff." This will be taken under advisement.

When are the microphones coming in? Wayne Gardner is the man to ask.

Scheduling for the future. The Board will decide on a summer schedule next week.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Phelps

Attachments: Letter from Council on Aging
Revised Park Policy