

Approved as Amended
6/3/13

Select Board Minutes
Town of Ashfield
Meeting – January 2, 2013

Present: Poullette Leukhardt, Ron Coler

The meeting was called to order at 6: 45 pm in order to hold a pole hearing (9ADX9F) requested by Verizon for work on Bug Hill Road. Present was Steven Micka, representing Verizon. However, the Board was concerned about whether or not the hearing had been properly posted and decided to err on the side of caution by rescheduling the hearing for January 23, 2013 at 6: 45 pm.

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:02pm. The announcement was made that the meeting was being recorded.

Appointments:

WiredWest: Present – David Kulp

Mr. Kulp, in his capacity as Manager of the municipal light plant and the Town's representative to WiredWest, presented a brief report on progress being made in the telecommunications area. He noted that the town has several committees that are involved in the process and that it might make sense to roll these committees into a telecommunications technology committee. Those other committees could then be dissolved. He read a mission statement for the proposed Technology Committee. **A motion was made by Ms. Leukhardt, seconded by Mr. Coler, and unanimously voted, to create a Technology Committee. (2-0-0)** Mr. Kulp will return to a later meeting with a list of persons who might serve on this committee.

Mr. Kulp then read a letter which he proposed to send to townspeople who have not responded to a non-binding survey to determine interest in improved internet capability. He explained that this was an important step in obtaining financing. He said if less than 50% of the Town was not interested there would be no point in pursuing this effort to bring improved TV, phone, and internet services to the Town, as it would not be financially viable.

Old Business:

Budgets: A cover letter to the boards, committees, and departments was reviewed and amended. The notice will request submission of a level funded budget, excepting a 2% increase for payroll. Expenses over the level funding mark should be submitted separately. This letter, along with the budget forms needs to be out by 1/8/13, as they are expected to be returned by 1/22/13. At this point the Board took time to amend the worksheets so that the identification of budgets would be consistent.

Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority: Once again the Board discussed the servicing fees charged for the revolving housing loan program. In particular, the amount charged for \$56,000 currently available for re-use was discussed. It was decided that an addendum would be added to the agreement before the Board specifying that the servicing fee not be more than 15% on that money; it would be fine with the 2 & 24% service fees for future returning loans. As for money being returned to the fund, Ms. Leukhardt felt each return should

come back to the Town for a decision on what should be done. Mr. Coler said there are 8 families waiting for a decision and he is anxious to get this done. Ms. Leukhardt will consult Town counsel as to wording for the addendum.

Public Records operating procedure: Copies of the procedure for handling Public Records were distributed. Town Counsel has reviewed the policy. The Board will formally adopt it next week.

Old Sanderson Water Connection: In a follow-up to a previous request. The Board decided that the water connection to Old Sanderson should be kept. It would leave more options for possible future use.

40B Inspection question: Note was made of a letter received regarding the handling of fees charged by the Board of Health for inspections. This will be taken up at a future meeting.

APR Request: The Board has a request from a property owner to acknowledge the placing on an Agricultural Preservation Restriction on farmland in Town. The request was not discussed, nor the parties involved identified.

Resigning of Agreements: Two documents previously signed, one for the Senior Center, the other for a generator grant. In the case of the generator, the form had changed.

New Business:

Minutes: None were available for approval.

Appointment: A motion was made by Mr. Coler, seconded by Ms. Leukhardt, and unanimously voted, to appoint Edward Carter to the Agricultural Commission.

Liaison Reports:

Fire Department - In 2012 the Fire Department responded to 161 calls: 71 were fire calls; 90 were medical responses.

Police Department – On Monday the anti-lock brakes “locked up,” and the Explorer was towed away for service. There is a problem with a light in the station that will require the services of an electrician. The Chief was directed to speak to the Town Clerk about the need to change a lock. A duct seems to be blocked; Stewart will be consulted. The Chief plans to present a policy for handling medical Marijuana. It is modeled after Mass Chief’s Policy.

Mail:

Annual Town Report – reminder from Town Clerk that a report needs to be prepared by the Select Board for the annual report. It’s due by the end of January Leukhardt asked Coler to prepare a draft for the Annual Town report , he agreed to do so.

Update from Bill Perlman of radio communications re: availability of used equipment Electronic recycling program – pass on to Highway Super.;

Attorney General's response to Sherry Jourdan's complaint – extension of time for a response;
MEMA – re: 2011 snow event (pass on to Highway Super.);
Public Utilities – notice of merger of companies and request for rate change;
MMA – Annual meeting on 1/25/13;
Notice of Greater Shelburne Falls Business Area scholarship;
Demand letter from Suzanne Corbett – reimbursement for inspections (Check with BOH and consult counsel, if necessary);

Special Town Election: The Board signed copies of the warrant for a special town election to be held on February 2nd to elect a third Selectman.

A motion was made, seconded, and voted, to adjourn at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Priscilla Phelps

Attachments:

Mission statement prepared by David Kulp
Letter to those who have not responded to Wired West survey

Document List

1. Letter from the Attorney General addressed to Sherrill Jourdan in response to complaint filed on October 24, 2012.
2. Draft letter to all Committees and Boards regarding FY14 Budget
3. List of all Fire Department calls
4. E-mails from Chief Droney to the Select Board
5. E-mail from Bill Perlman regarding Spruce Corner radio coverage
6. Information on free Electronic Recycling program
7. Letter regarding Shelburne Falls area Business Association Scholarship
8. Information on Tax rate setting process
9. Letter from Suzanne Corbett (93A demand Letter)
10. E-mail responses from Robin Sherman at FCRHRA
11. Commonwealth of Massachusetts contractor authorized signatory listing

NOTE: These draft minutes were discussed, amended, and approved at the Select Board meeting dated _06/03/2013_ and filed in the folder of actual date of said minutes.