

Town of Ashfield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
August 26, 2016

A Select Board Meeting was held at the Ashfield Town Hall on August 26, 2016, at 10:00 am. Previous Select Board meeting was held on August 22, 2016. There was one audio recorder at the meeting. Approximately 4 audience members were present at the meeting.

Select Board: Chair - Todd Olanyk, Tom Carter, Ron Coler

Interim Town Administrator: Kayce Warren

Chair Olanyk called meeting to order at 10:05 am.

1. REVIEW MINUTES, WARRANTS

No meeting minutes available.

2. APPOINTMENTS WITH SELECT BOARD

See discussion item.

3. DISCUSSION/DECISION ITEMS

A. David Gendron – Interim Police Chief

Chair Olanyk thanked Mr. Gendron for coming to the Select Board meeting. Carter stated that he had spoken to Gendron in the past week and thanked him for his willingness to assist the Town.

Gendron introduced himself and gave his background. Gendron retired as Chief of Police in Erving, is a former Selectmen (in Erving), and currently works as the Security Director at Deerfield Academy. He was a former Interim Chief in Erving and Northfield, has participated on several police chief search committees, and is familiar with the concept of regionalization amongst small town departments. In preparation for this meeting, he discussed operations of the Police Department with Corporal Beth Bezio. He told the Board that he hired Bezio in Erving and both are familiar with

each other's working style. He also noted that he would be available via telephone and would be coming up regularly, but is only a half hour away in emergencies.

Chair Olanyk stated that the Select Board hoped to have the police chief's position sorted out by December 1st and asked if Gendron would be willing to assist during that time. Gendron affirmed that he would. He added that he would also be willing to assist the Select Board with development of a plan for the chief's position and department by providing information based on budget review, equipment and training evaluation, and cost analysis. Gendron noted that he would want to institute more effective training and recruitment efforts.

Carter noted that regionalization depends on the political will of the towns involved. He added that he thought the sharing of resources would be key. Carter stated that Ashfield's present police budget was \$102,000, but that Plainfield approved \$20,000, and Hawley only \$1,200. Chair Olanyk noted that he thought that through a regionalization agreement, Plainfield could help support the Police Chief salary and thereby allow the towns the manpower to put more officers out on duty. Carter's evaluation was that the Town of Ashfield approached police service differently. Coler stated that throughout this process to determine the direction of the police chief's position, he expects the public to give their input related on regionalization. Gendron noted that in the regionalization efforts of Erving, Bernardston, Northfield, and Gill, that the towns seemed to want to have ownership over departmental operations, which lead to those regionalization efforts being unsuccessful. Coler noted that the Town of Ashfield has consistently supported a strong chief approach and that he is anxious to move forward.

Carter stated that one of the goals for the Interim Police Chief would be to manage the elements of Fall Festival and asked Gendron for his thoughts. Gendron, acting as the Security Director at Deerfield Academy, is well versed in this capacity having handled various visits from heads of state and other dignitaries. With the resources at his disposal and his experience, he is confident that he and Bezio will put together an effective plan. He noted that Fall Festival would be a good public relations opportunity and invited Bezio to share an idea she had in that vein. Bezio stated that she thought an effective way to interact with residents and visitors was to have a booth

during fall festival to introduce officers, hand out promotional items, and generally begin to build rapport with residents. Carter thought that was a great idea and thanked Bezio for her input. Gendron stated that he is available to the Select Board to respond to these types of questions, attend meetings, and to interact with residents via mobile phone or at meetings.

Carter asked Gendron what type of compensation he thought was fair. Gendron stated that \$250 per week was workable, but that he would keep hours flexible. Coler asked, should residents ask him in particular, what would be the amount of time the Interim Police Chief was working. Gendron estimated 10-15 hours, dependent on the situation.

MOTION:

Carter made a motion to appoint David Gendron as Interim Police Chief, Chair Olanyk seconded, **VOTE (3-0-0)**; unanimous.

Gendron told the Select Board that they might receive an anonymous, derisive letter regarding himself. Letters of this nature had been received in the past by other communities. Carter reported that the Select Board generally does not respond to anonymous letters.

4. INTERIM TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

A. Mold

Warren stated that after a meeting with Walt Baenziger (Environmental Specialist), Stuart Harris, and Kyle Taylor, written recommendations from Baenziger would be forthcoming, but there were several action items:

Dehumidification:

- Bathrooms – installation of on demand exhaust fans to outside in both areas;
- Main Crawlspace – repair of current vapor barrier and sealing of untreated concrete, installation of a dehumidifier with air filtration and drainage to the custodial drain;
- Police Department – installation of a dedicated central split dehumidifier with fresh air exchange, filtration, latent cooling via an outside condenser mounted on outside of building, and drainage;

- Small Crawlspace – installation of vapor barrier, sealant to surfaces, exhaust ventilation, and possibly isolation of the space if installation of vapor barrier and sealant are unable to be completed.

Warren has asked for clarification of the process by which to complete mold cleanup/remediation and awaits a response from Baenziger.

Coler asked Carter if he remembered if there was drainage from the building and surrounding land. He also mentioned that Harris thought it might be useful to install drainage across the street, which would necessitate easements from property owners. Carter did not recall, but was concerned about compromising the state of the building. He noted that it might be more useful to install a drywell to alleviate the issues with Town Hall and with the Fire Department building.

B. Broadband update

Warren provided updated information from David Kulp in response to the Select Board's questions from the previous meeting on (8/22/16) the MBI Readiness and Recommendation Agreement and on the Pole Survey Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and MBI. Recalling the vote on August 22, 2016 (Documents ___ through ____).

Warren informed the Select Board that the Town Administrator from Buckland, Andrea Llamas, had asked whether Ashfield would send a letter of support for Buckland's MassWorks grant application for their Recreation Area Infrastructure Project. Warren wasn't sure whether the Select Board normally handled these items, or designated the Town Administrator to do so. Coler stated that Llamas, on behalf of the Buckland Board of Selectmen, had been very supportive of the MassWorks grant applications submitted by Ashfield and that he thought it appropriate for Warren to handle it. He suggested that a letter of support, developed by the two administrators, be sent out as soon as possible. Carter concurred. Chair Olanyk asked whether there needed to be a formal vote.

MOTION:

Coler made a motion to have Warren work with Town Administrator Llamas to pull together a letter of support for the Town of Buckland MassWorks Infrastructure Program Application, Carter seconded, VOTE (3-0-0); unanimous.

5. MAIL

None

6. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

7. * ITEMS NOT REASONABLY ANTICIPATED BY THE CHAIR 48 HOURS IN ADVANCE OF THE MEETING

None

8. UPCOMING MEETINGS

September 6, 2016

9. ADJOURN

MOTION:

Coler made a motion to adjourn at 10:48 am, Carter seconded, **VOTE (3-0-0);** unanimous.

Meeting Document List:

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Email from David Kulp dated 8/23/16
3. MBI Readiness Evaluation & Recommendation Agreement (revised from 8/22/16)
4. Last Mile Readiness Submission Form (revised from 8/22/16)
5. Last Mile Town Cash Flow Summary
6. Memorandum of Agreement- Pole Survey Work (between Ashfield Select Board & MBI)