

Town of Ashfield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
February 22, 2016

The Select Board Meeting was held at the Ashfield Town Hall in the Main Hall on February 08, 2016 at 7:00 PM. There was one audio recorder or video recorder at the meeting.

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

Town Administrator: Kayce Warren (absent)

Asst. Municipal Clerk/Scribe: Lynn Taylor

WARRANTS:

Vendor Warrant W16-18 dated February 22, 2016 (**document 2**)

Payroll Warrant WP16-18 dated February 22, 2016 (**document 3**)

MINUTES: none available

APPOINTMENTS:

A. Doug Field Emergency Manager comes in front of the Board to ask to have Paul Monohon appointed as Assistant Emergency Manager.

MOTION: Olanyk makes a motion to appoint Paul Monohon as Assistant Emergency Manager, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0**

Field advises that he had spoken with Town Administrator regarding Emergency Action Plan for the Lake Dam. Warren has contacted Tighe and Bond regarding the inspection the Town will have six months to get the inspection done rather than the three months they originally stated in the letter. There is \$2000.00 in the budget for the inspection. Field also has to file an amendment to the action plan regarding Bronson Avenue and south Ashfield. Field will keep the Board up to date on this issue.

B. IT Committee- Broadband update: David Kulp Chair of the IT Committee comes before the Board with an update on Broadband and how

to move forward on getting fiber in Ashfield. He distributes a packet from the MBI Board of Directors Meeting of January 26, 2016 (**document 4**). At The last Tech Committee Meeting they agreed to move forward with Fiber to the home by ourselves, they felt at this time this route would be the best for the Town if in the Future we decided to join MBI that would be fine. Many members of the Tech Committee as well as Coler went to a meeting in Leverett where they explained how they built and managed bringing fiber to the homes and managing the network themselves. Kulp and the IT Committee strongly feel that this is the route for Ashfield to take at this time. Coler also advises after leaving the meeting in Leverett that Ashfield could certainly manage their own network. The Boards express that they feel bad for the smaller Towns they cannot afford to build and manage their own network but ultimately we have to do what is best for Ashfield. Carter advises that a Select Board member from Cummington has reached out to get a copy of the letter Ashfield sent to MBI as they are ready to move forward as well. Juliet questions what the next moves for Ashfield will be , David advises that he will be contacting MBI, getting the make ready work done then clarification on the Network provider and ISP. Murray brings up the issue of getting a FY15 audit done so the Town has FY14,15, and 16 ready for the bond application. Carter suggests not going through the bond process as it is so expensive his thought is a series of State house notes and getting it paid off earlier and pay less in interest. Kulp questions whether we go to the citizens at this point Carter advises just to keep moving forward as there is not much to share yet. Kulp will be in contact with Warren regarding grant application that was signed on June 29 for the amount of \$5000.00. Kulp has a brief discussion with the Board regarding an addendum to the contract with Northeast IT, Kulp will work with the company to get things settled so they can get to work.

Discussion Items:

A. Consideration of Bylaw changes related to large scale

Industrial/Commercial Development: Planning Board members Mike Fitzgerald, Alan Rice, and Ken Miller are at the meeting. A draft bylaw drafted by Conway is distributed (**document 5**) Fitzgerald discusses with the Board that this type of an issue is more in the jurisdiction of the Board of Health and the Select Board. The Planning Board cannot make a bylaw pertaining to utilities, poles, gas lines, churches or schools. Fitzgerald

advises asking Town Counsel. Alan Rice explains that the Board should be careful of what or who else this bylaw will affect in the future and who you may be regulating, also who will be doing all the administrative part of this bylaw if it passes because this is asking for tons of information and someone will have to do this administrative work. Rice understands and agrees with what the Board may be looking to do. Coler definitely feels this is worth pursuing he feels the Town needs to be protected. He expressed a thought of having the bylaw end in say 5 years. Cindy Kearney feels that something regarding noise should be done as they plan on working on the pipeline from sunup to sundown and a blow down valve will be put in somewhere near the center of Town.

Warren will be asked to invite the BOH to the next SB meeting to have this discussion. Fitzgerald advises doing the water well testing and some kind of noise ordinance with the help of the BOH.

Carter questions Rice regarding the Open Space Plan and how close to done is it. Rice will be working with the FRCOG and Warren within the next week or two. Coler explains how important this is when applying for grants. Rice would like to be put on the agenda for four weeks out to discuss the plan.

B. Budget Considerations-FY2017 Constraints, FY2016 Spending Freeze:

Coler expresses the Town is in dire financial need. Carter had the Town clerk do some research in 2006 an override for \$90,000.00 passed on Town meeting floor 140-15 on the ballot it failed 349-210. He feels if we are to ask the Town for an override we are really going to have to sell it to the residents. Carter gives David Kulp editor of Ashfield News a quick overview of why the FY17 budget is looking to be so short roughly \$335 Thousand. Assessment for Mohawk Regional is up between \$150-\$155 Thousand, increase in insurance premiums and contracts, COLAS for employees, Purchase of a new backhoe for the Highway Dept., and not as much free cash to help balance the budget for FY16 we had \$384 Thousand and FY17 \$222 Thousand. Murray makes a suggestion of not giving the COLAS to employees and putting a spending freeze on this year's budget having all department heads and committee chairs purchase only through the Town Administrator. Lebold, Gougeon, and Coler advise that they do not agree with taking away the COLA from the employees and that another way needs to be found. Lebold actually feels that the raises should be given

over a designated time frame. Gougeon feels that the employees should be compensated and that it is more important than the material things being asked for. Carter would like to get some of the Capital purchases out of the way before the Broadband hits the budget. Olanyk will contact the Highway Superintendent and advise him not to purchase excess sand and salt.

MOTION: Carter makes a motion to have the Town Administrator communicate with all Department heads and Committee Chairs advising them of the challenges being faced for the FY17 budget and putting a freeze or limit spending for the rest of FY16 and in the next couple weeks advise they will be meeting with the Chairs of the Select Board and Finance Committee or their delegate along with the Town Administrator, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0**

- C. Appointment of Election workers: Irene Branson, Bev Williams, and Anna Fessenden **MOTION:** Olanyk makes a motion to appoint Irene Branson, Bev Williams, and Anna Fessenden as election Workers, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0**

Liaison Reports:

Coler discusses a recent meeting he had attended at the FRTA regarding the Mutual Agreement contract we signed. Looking to get a few firefighters and a few residents trained by the FRTA to drive their busses in case they are needed for Emergency evacuation.

Next meeting will be on February 29, 2016 at 7PM it will be a joint budget meeting with the Finance Committee.

MOTION: Coler makes a motion to adjourn at 9:20 PM, seconded by Olanyk.
VOTE: 3-0-0

DOCUMENT LIST

1. Agenda for 02/22/2016
2. Vendor Warrant W16-18 dated February 22, 2016
3. Payroll Warrant WP16-18 dated February 22, 2016
4. MBI Board of Directors Meeting of January 26, 2016
5. Bylaw drafted by Conway