

**Town of Ashfield**  
**Select Board Meeting Minutes**

**August 8, 2016**

The Select Board Meeting was held at the Ashfield Town Hall in lower Hall on August 8, 2016 at 7:00 Pm. There were 2 audio recorders at the Meeting. Approximately 1 audience member was in attendance at the meeting

**Select Board Members:** Todd Olanyk-Chair, Tom Carter –Vice Chair, Ron Coler

**Interim Town Administrator:** Kayce Warren

**Asst. Municipal Clerk/Scribe:** Lynn Taylor

Olanyk calls the meeting to order at 7:11PM

**Warrants:**

Vendor Warrant W17-04 Dated August 8, 2016 (**document 2**)

Payroll Warrant WP17-04 Dated August 8, 2016 (**document 3**)

**Minutes:**

July 25, 2016 Minutes (**document 4**): **MOTION:** Olanyk makes a motion to approve the minutes of 7/25/2016 as submitted, seconded by Carter. **VOTE: 2-0-1 (RC)**

August 4, 2016 Minutes (**document 5**): **MOTION:** Coler makes a motion to approve the minutes of 8/4/2016 with addition of the document list, seconded by Olanyk. **VOTE: 2-0-0**

**Appointments with the Board:**

- a. **David Newell VEAC Update:** As of today the numbers for Vocational School students are as follows six are enrolled at Smith Voke and eleven are enrolled at Franklin Tech for the 2016-17 School year, which is essentially level funded. Newell would like the Board to approve to have the four Town Consortium use Ashfield as the fueling facility again this school year last year this process saved the Towns about \$27,000.00 in fuel cost.

**MOTION:** Olanyk makes a motion to allow the Four Town Consortium to use the Ashfield Highway Dept. as the fueling facility for the 2016-2017 School year, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 2-0-0**

Newell has been working very hard on the bussing for the VOKE Schools as of today we need to find seats for two students. He has until August 12 to give the bussing contractor the final decision as to the need for an additional van. The VKE budget looks to be right around \$460,000.00 if an additional van is added that would push the budget over, Newell will keep Warren and the Board up to date.

Newell gives a quick overview of the VEAC Meetings distributing a handout pertaining to Preferred Voke School policy (**document 6**). These are very successful they are being Chaired by the SB Chair of Hawley Johnathan Sears. They have been working with Superintendent Buoniconti on the Transportation Contract and also the Preferred VOKE School Policy. This policy would give Buoniconti guidelines for approving or rejecting submitted VOKE applications, by the SB choosing preferred VOKE schools it would allow him to do this. **For example:** If Ashfield's preferred Schools are Tech and Smith and if a student applies to a Springfield Voke School looking to enroll in carpentry and Tech offers that shop Buoniconti would be able to reject the application saving transportation funds. After a discussion a **MOTION** is made. Carter makes a motion to approve Smith Vocational and Agricultural School and Franklin County Technical School Ashfield's preferred Vocational Schools, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0.**

Another motion is also made in regards to VOKE. **MOTION:** Olanyk makes a motion in the event a student from our Town wishes to attend McCann or some other distant vocational school for a program that is offered at Smith and / or Tech are you willing to direct the Superintendent to approve that students application but only if the involved family enters into an agreement with the Town and/ or school district and assumes responsibility for their son or daughter's transportation and if the tuition is no substantially more, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0**

Lastly Newell explains he has had a discussion with his attorney and Ted Murray of the Finance Committee regarding continuing to Volunteer administrative work for the Schools Newell needs to be protected. Murray suggests Newell be appointed as Vocational Education Coordinator, reporting to the Finance Committee. After a short discussion the Board asks

Warren to put this on the next meeting agenda and asks Newell to draft a short paragraph including the proposed title for the next meeting.

**Discussion /Decision Items:**

- a. Special Municipal Employees:** Olanyk has a brief discussion with Susan Stark who is in the audience regarding special Municipal Employees. After a discussion with the Board, **MOTION:** Carter makes a motion to designate members of all Boards, Committees, Appointees and Elected Officials as Special Municipal Employees as allowed by law, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0**
- b. Intervenor Legal bills:** Invoice pertaining to Legal bills provided to the Town of Montague for legal services for Representation in DPU Docket 15-178. **(document 7)** Town meeting in May approved about \$14,000.00 to be help support other communities fight the proposed pipeline/intervenor status. **MOTION:** Carter makes a motion to advice the Accountant the bill from Burns and Levinson be on the next Warrant for payment, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0**
- c. HCOG Electricity contract: (document 8)** brief discussion regarding contract renewal with HCOG. **MOTION:** Carter makes a motion authorizing the Chair Olanyk to endorse the 2YR HCOG contract with Hampshire Power, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0**
- d. Select Board authorization for 2016 MassWorks Grant application for Ashfield Lake.** Coler gives an update of MassWorks Grant and its deadline of August 27, 2016. Coler asks the Board to authorize the Chair to sign a submission Letter for the MassWorks Infrastructure Grant dated August 8, 2016. **MOTION:** Coler makes a motion to authorize the Chair Todd Olanyk to sign on behalf of the Select Board the submission letter for the MassWorks Infrastructure Grant Application, seconded by Carter. **VOTE: 3-0-0 (document 9)**
- e. Report on Ashfield Lake 2016 invasive weed program:** Coler distributes an informational packet to the Board **(document 10)** pertaining to the fanwort that was removed in July and also last year he goes on to say that there is still a lot of fanwort in and amongst the Lilly pads which is very difficult to get to for removal. Coler suggest having Angela C. Panaccione wet lands scientist ( **see resume document 11**) come in and meet with the Sb to suggest and discuss options for removal of the fanwort in that area, this would cost about \$150.00 the budget has funds to cover this meeting cost.

Coler would also like the Finance Committee to attend he will coordinate with the Chairs for a meeting time.

- f. Appointments of Willis Thayer as Agent to Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Services and Wayne Farrell, alternate to the Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans Service, Douglas Field Senior Center Liaison: (documents 12-14) MOTION:** Carter makes a motion to make the appointments as submitted, seconded by Coler. **VOTE:3-0-0**
- g. FRCOG Regional Planning Board Representative: MOTION:** Olanyk makes a motion to appoint the Town Administrator to the FRCOG Regional Planning Board as Ashfield's Rep., Seconded by Carter. **VOTE: 3-0-0**
- h. Police Chief hiring process:** Carter advises that he would like to gather more information and plans to be ready for the next meeting for discussion but does feel we will need an Officer in Charge at some point going forward. Olanyk questions the schedule of the Chief until September 1, he is advised that she has no vacation left so should be a normal schedule until Sept. 1. Wilder has asked for an exit interview which is not yet scheduled as those are usually done just prior to departure from the position. Olanyk would like this added to the next agenda 8/22/2016.
- i. Town Hall use Application; Ashfield Film Fest, Tamsen Merrill (document 15):** Stuart Harris and Kyle Taylor join the meeting for discussion of application. They briefly explain to the Board that there has been issues with certain organizations not cleaning up after themselves, Olanyk tells them to hold them to their responsibilities or keep the security deposit. Harris also brings up that the application is not yet complete and also \$25.00 short, Lynn Taylor advises that she has already contacted Tamsen regarding the oversight. **MOTION:** Carter makes a motion to approve the Town Hall use application for the Film Fest, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0**
  - a. Town Clerk hiring Process:** Vacancy notice is posted on the bulletin board and has is in the Recorder, MMA website, and on the Mass Town Clerk's Website. Warren would like to for a hiring Committee to include a Personnel Board Member, Town Admin, & Moderator.
  - b. Financial Policy discussion update:** Warren advises that the Finance Committee will be meeting on August 15 to hash out the latest Financial Policy with Joe Markarian.

**Mail:**

Improvements to FERC: Email and draft changes regarding the FERC process from Peggy Sloan at FRCOG. (**document 16**) recommending Towns perhaps draft a letter to Federal Legislators regarding the FERC process for gas pipelines. After a brief discussion Coler volunteered to draft the letter for the Select Board using the recommendations sent by Sloan.

Rick Chandler is at the meeting and is willing to fill the vacancy of Art Pantermehl on the Woodlands Partnership if the Board is sure Art is not interested. Chandler is very interested in being a part of this program. He advises he sees both good and bad with the program, expressing the Town defiantly needs to go into this with eyes opened wide. Olanyk asks Warren to put this appointment on the next meeting agenda.

**Public Comment: None**

**Next Select Board Meeting August 22, 2016 @7:00 PM**

Coler makes a motion to adjourn @ 9:20 PM

Adjourned at 9:20 PM

### **Document List**

1. Agenda for 08/08/2016
2. Vendor Warrant W17-04 Dated August 8, 2016
3. Payroll Warrant WP17-04 Dated August 8, 2016
4. July 25, 2016 Minutes
5. August 4, 2016 Minutes
6. Handout pertaining to Preferred VOKE School policy
7. Legal bill from Burns and Levinson
8. HCOG Electricity contract
9. Submission letter for the MassWorks Infrastructure Grant Application
10. Informational packet pertaining to invasive weeds
11. Angela C. Panaccione wet lands scientist resume
- 12-14. Appointment letters
15. Town Hall use Application; Ashfield Film Fest, Tamsen Merrill
16. Email and draft changes regarding the FERC process from Peggy Sloan at FRCOG

