

Approved
11/9/11

Select Board meeting minutes November 3, 2011

Present: Select Board – Chair Norman Russell, Doug Field, Paulette Leukhardt
Interim Executive Administrator - Mary Fitz-Gibbon

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m.

Minutes

The Select Board voted to accept the minutes for 10/26/11, as amended.

Appointments

No appointments.

Old Business

Mr. Russell reported that the hazardous waste area at the Town Transfer Station has been cleaned out and is now ready to accept more material.

Russell also reported that the Thursday morning hours added back into the Transfer Station schedule appear to be popular and busy.

New Business

Mr. Field reported that the Mass Broadband fiber optic contractor has visited Town Hall in preparation for their use as Anchor Sites for fiber optic service to the town. Actual installation is still as much as a year in the future but the process is moving along.

Liaison Reports

Doug Field

Highway Department – The Highway Department has been blacktopping the washout areas left by Tropical Storm Irene, with Apple Valley, Bear Swamp and Bug Hill Road completed.

Emergency Management – Field reported that he has been continuing the work of reviewing and correcting the Blackboard Connect database of pre-loaded Ashfield residence phone numbers. The next step will be to solicit additions from Town residents. Blackboard Connect will be forwarding forms to aid in that task which will start in December.

Senior Center – Mr. Field attended an Ashfield Elders luncheon hosted by the Ashfield Council on Aging. He reports that there was a strongly expressed desire by those in attendance that Ashfield remain a member of the multi-town Senior Center. Mr. Field distributed a draft copy of the proposed new Senior Center contract for initial review. Mr. Russell noted that the new draft seems to give COA's and Select Boards greater authority.

Doug Field said that there are currently about 440 over-60 seniors in Ashfield.

Norm Russell said that the Town could certainly not withdraw from the Senior Center without a fully detailed plan in place to provide all services here in town through our own COA. He said that when the COA first came to the Board with concerns the problem was principally with the contract itself and the new draft contract does appear to address those issues. He went on to say that the cost per unit of service is still a concern however. He said that by his reckoning, every time an Ashfield

senior receives a unit of service (for, perhaps, as little as an hour) it costs Ashfield \$23. He noted further that Ashfield pays one-quarter of the true costs for each service unit and that that means that it actually costs taxpayers, one way or another, \$92 per service unit. He stated that that makes it a very expensive program.

Mr. Field says that the Senior Center has 300 people signed up for their Thanksgiving Day dinner.

Paullette Leukhardt

Ms. Leukhardt said that she has nothing to report this week.

Norm Russell

Mr. Russell has no liaison report this week.

Mail

The Chair read a letter from a citizen concerned about plans for new tree plantings. Mr. Russell read a portion of the letter that pointed out that Ashfield retained electricity in the most recent two-foot snow storm. The writer suggested that all the cutting of trees and limbs that occurred this summer may well have contributed to Ashfield's not losing electricity this time and that this should be kept in mind with any new plantings. The Board agreed with the letter's concerns and will contact the Tree Committee to convey those concerns.

The Board received and accepted, with grateful appreciation for all her service, a resignation letter from Board of Health member Cindy Scott. The resignation will be effective November 11th. Cindy has not only served on the Board of Health for a number of years, she has also run an in-town flu clinic that has served many Ashfield residents over the years.

Future Meetings

The Select Board will next meet on Wednesday, November 9th.

Public Comments

None.

After a motion was made, seconded and passed, the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.