

**Town of Ashfield**  
**Select Board & Finance Committee joint Budget Meeting Minutes**  
**March 11, 2015**

Budget meeting was held at the Ashfield Town Hall on March 11, 2015. Meeting was called to order at 7:01 P.M by the Chair Tom Carter. There were 5 Audio recorders and approximately 10 people in the audience.

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

**Finance Committee:** Janet Rogers, David Newell

**Executive Administrator:** Mary Fitz-Gibbon

**Asst. Municipal Clerk:** Lynn Taylor

Agenda for 3/11/2015 (**document 1**)

Finance Committee did not open their meeting due to lack of quorum.

**Minutes of 3/2/2015: MOTION:** Coler makes a motion to approve the minutes of 3/2/2015 as written, seconded by Olanyk. (**Document 2**)**VOTE: 2-0-1 (TC)**

**Appointments:**

**Police Department:** Budget sheet (**document 3**) Stats of Ashfield calls (**document 4**) Chief Wilder presents her budget taking it line by line and explaining her reasoning for the increases in line items. The overall increase requested for the department is \$28,136.00 Chief Wilder and the Board members had roughly a 45 min discussion. Chief was asked to acquire some more data from the State Police to justify her request in increased hours for reserve Officers. Carter thanks Wilder for the great job she was doing managing the FY15 budget.

**Fire Department:** Budget sheet (**document 5**) Chief Haskins presents his budget to the board taking it line by line giving his reasoning for any increases in line items. The Board and Haskins have about a 45 min discussion. The total increase in his budget for FY16 is \$648.00, However Haskins has an attached wish list including replacing hoses, fixing ladders, replacing radios and looking for extra money to hire an outside firm (Fire Truck Authority) to service and maintain the

fire trucks as the Highway Department is not able to service them anymore. This company will also certify the pumps. The Board decided to add \$7000.00 to Repair/Maint line for FY16 to cover these items on Chiefs wish list.

**Highland Ambulance:** Pat Thayer and Doug Mollison present the highland Ambulance budget. Budget sheet (**document 6**) There is a large increase in calls most of the time two ambulances are running calls, Ashfield is still the largest users. That is one reason there is an increase in the Budget. Another issue of Ashfields status going from rural to urban which changes the amount of reimbursement that is allowed. After a discussion the Board decides that it is appropriate to send a letter to State and Federal leaders looking for answers as to why Ashfield has been classified urban. **MOTION:** Motion was made for Pat Thayer and Fitz-Gibbon to draft a letter to State & Federal leaders to find answers regarding Ashfields classification going from rural to urban, seconded. **VOTE: 3-0-0.** There also was discussion regarding the Building Capital and encumbering the amount, as the building has not yet been started.

**EMD:** Doug Field gives an overview of his FY2016 budget (**document 7**). The only increase that Field is looking for is \$50.00 more for himself and his asst. because they attend so many meetings using their own vehicles. Carter would like Field to keep track of his mileage for EMD usage.

Emergency Radios Issue: There is still a huge issue regarding the lack of radio communication in the Spruce Corner area. There are many problems still with the towers Plainfields tower is still not up and functioning. Still leaves the area of Spruce Corner, Cape Street, and Apple Valley as dead zones. Del has spoken with Bill Perlman regarding the problems he feels the tower should be up and functioning but that has been said before.

The Town Clerk drafted a memo with deadlines for upcoming elections:  
**(document 8)**

Doug Field advises the Board that he will be attending a Senior Center meeting on the topic of possibly purchasing the Mason building for the Center. He will keep the Board up to date on the issue.

**Public Comment:**

Tietrza Shwartz would like to know why Paulette Leukhardt has 3 recorders in front of her recording the meeting and would like to know who they belong to. Carter advises that he does not know who they belong to he knows that two

members of the SB have recorders. As Chair he has to announce how many recorders are present but do not need to know who they belong to.

The Board reviews the articles slated for STM editing any wording that needed to be done. Carter would like the Assessors to attend the SB meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> for discussion of an article on the STM. Next Meeting will be Monday March 16, 2015 at 7:00 PM.

Coler makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Olanyk. **VOTE: 3-0-0**

**Adjourned at 10:45 PM**

Document List:

1. Agenda for 3/11/2015
2. Minutes of 3/2/2015
3. Police Department Budget
4. Stats of calls researched by Chief Wilder.
5. Fire Department Budget
6. Highland Ambulance Budget
7. EMD Budget
8. Memo from Town Clerk regarding time lines for upcoming elections
- 9.

Note: These minutes were discussed, amended, and approved at the Select Board meeting dated 1/16/15 and filed in the folder of the actual date of the said minutes