

**Town of Ashfield**

**Select Board & Finance Committee joint Budget Meeting Minutes**

**March 25, 2015**

Budget meeting was held at the Ashfield Town Hall on March 25, 2015. Meeting was called to order at 6:51 P.M by the Chair Tom Carter. There were 4 Audio recorders and approximately 4 people in the audience.

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

**Finance Committee:** Ted Murray-Chair, Ricki Carroll, Tom Schrieber

**Executive Administrator:** Mary Fitz-Gibbon

**Asst. Municipal Clerk:** Lynn Taylor

Agenda for 3/25/2015 (**document 1**)

Response to FRCOG, relative to AECOM request:

Ashfields Representative Jim Cutler is present and has a discussion with the Board regarding FRCOG and the request from AECOM and if and how to respond. Coler is still receiving information from Peggy Sloan at FRCOG he wants Jim to be sure and make clear that he is not the representative. Jim advises that the scoping hearings are going to be starting and they are trying to get the information anyway that they can, they had no luck with the Towns so now they are pressuring the County for information.

**Appointments:**

**MTRSD School Budget: (document 2)** Emily Robertson and Poppy Doyle School Committee members present the FY 16 budget for the MTRSD. This year's appropriation will be Operating Assessment \$2,028,973.00, Net Capital Assessment \$66,274.00 Total Assessment for FY16 is \$2,095,247.00. Emily informs the Board that she had just come from the Shelburne meeting and they stated that they will not support the budget as Buckland and Colrain are not in support either. The feeling is it is just not affordable. Reasons for the increases are the contracted raises, Tuition free half-day Preschool to be offered in the Grammar schools, special education costs, and tuition for the Charter schools. Emily informs the Board that there has been a huge outpouring of support for the preschool and Sanderson it is looking like there will be around 30 students interested in the

preschool which will be two classrooms, which is great news. Some of the Towns would like to see the preschool put off for another year Emily informs the Board that this will not happen. If the budget is not approved by the Towns the Committee could keep bringing the same budget back again and also may be forced to use 1/12 budget set by the state and that may be more than the Town assessments. The Boards expressed their thanks to both Emily and Poppy for all of their hard work on the School Committee, in return Emily and Poppy thanked the Boards for attending the meetings and understanding how the budget process works. Emily wanted the Boards to be aware of a meeting at Sanderson April 8, 2015 at 7:00 Pm she encouraged the Board to attend and learn more about the preschool. Coler asked Emily if she could get him a spreadsheet comparing assessment of all Towns for the past five years and possibly a pie chart showing how things are divided in the budget.

### **Vocational Schools:**

David Newell is not at the meeting, however Murray talks regarding the Vocational Budget for FY16. As of right now there are four new applications for the Technical Schools and four seniors graduating. With tuition and Transportation increases the budget for FY16 is up about \$32,000.00 over last year. This years budget is \$569,346.00. Enrollment at the Vocational schools is 19 students give or take.

### **Minutes:**

Waiting until meeting of March 30, 2015

### **FY16 Budget discussion and overview:**

Police Chief revised her budget however not enough and no data has been brought forward therefore we will not discuss. Boards are not in agreement with the Chief salary or the increase in reserve officers.

Discussion regarding the Town Hall Building Committee budget and the monies they are seeking. Murray explains that no matter how much you spend money on paint they are still the same unproductive offices because of the layout. Carter agreed with Murray and thought maybe the time was coming to look for alternatives.

Discussion regarding Assessors budget Boards are uncomfortable with the increase in clerks hours. There was discussion of maybe meeting them half way and giving two hours additional.

Discussion of capital purchases for the Highway Dept. after back and forth discussion looks like maybe the sweeper and the mower rather than the backhoe this year. It is suggested Todd Olanyk get together with Highway Superintendent and see how Poissant feels.

Murray will revise his capital purchases spreadsheet again and forward to the other board members.

Wednesday April 27, 2015 6-8 Pm there will be a meeting at the Ashfield Town Hall with MBI and Towns that are affected by the last mile.

Paullette Leukhardt questions if there is still a line for Town Common maintenance. Yes there is.

By request from Laura Blakesley (**document 3**)

Carter makes a motion to rescind the vote from March 16 appointing Lynn Taylor as Deputy Collector and in its place appoint Lynn Taylor as Temporary Assistant Treasurer assigned to process payroll, seconded by Coler. VOTE: 2-0-0

Next meeting will be March 30, 2015 at 7:00 PM

Coler makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carter

Adjourned at 9:50 PM

### **Document List**

1. Agenda for 3/25/2015
2. MTRSD FY16 Budget
3. Request from Laura Blakesley