

Town of Ashfield Select Board

Meeting Minutes

March 3, 2014

The Ashfield Select Board meeting was held on Monday March 3, 2014 at the Ashfield Town Hall at 7:00 P.M. This meeting was a joint FY 15 Budget meeting between members of the Finance Committee and the Select Board.

Select Board: Tom Carter-Chair; Ron Coler-Vice Chair; (Paullette Leukhardt absent)

Finance Committee: Ted Murray, Tom Schrieber

Executive Administrator: Mary Fitz-Gibbon

Meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Carter at 7:01 P.M.

General FY 15 Budget overview and discussion.

Highway

Tom Poissant, Highway Superintendent presented a level-funded budget as requested. Asked by the Chair if the budget covers the anticipated need Poissant said it did not. Poissant expressed concern that the Department could start to fall behind on road repair without additional appropriation beyond level-funding. He discussed in detail materials (sand, gravel, pipe, etc.) and costs. There was discussion of expected level of Chapter 90 funding and whether there will be a need for the Town to augment the Highway appropriations if there is a Chapter 90 shortfall.

The three-year average expenditure for the Winter Roads line is approximately \$104,000. There followed a discussion of fuel costs and projections and slightly increased labor costs. Poissant said that the Highway is at full-crew status for the first time in two years.

Highway Capital Expense needs and schedule were reviewed; there is a need to replace the dump truck (20 years) and plow (30 years). Poissant reported that four times during the winter storm season the dump truck had to be taken off-line for repairs. Finance Committee Chair Ted Murray pointed out that the need for the

truck has been on the capital plan for some time and that he favors including it in this year's budget so that the Town does not fall further behind in the capital replacement schedule. Murray offers that the Finance Committee will put together a capital items handout for Annual Town Meeting (ATM). There is general agreement that a debt exclusion question for purchase of the truck will be placed on the ballot for ATM.

Pending Ashfield Lake Dam and Field Retaining Wall repairs were reviewed and possible funding levels discussed. Among other items a new hydraulic survey will be required as part of the effort to improve the Dam classification. There is also a brief discussion of the need to work with and have an agreement with the Field Trustees on the matter of the stabilization of the retaining wall.

The Tree Warden and Transfer Station budgets are reviewed. Poissant reports that townspeople do an excellent job of recycling.

Senior Center

Cathy Butin, Director of the Senior Center presents Ashfield's portion of the shared Senior Center budget and reviews the operations of the Center and the Center budget as a whole. There is discussion of ongoing efforts to investigate possible options for a new location for the Center including consideration of an empty portion of the Buckland-Shelburne School and a possible facility study of the Sweetheart Inn in Shelburne as a location. Murray states that the work of the Center is impressive especially considering the level-funded budget presented.

COA

Council on Aging (COA) Chair Franklin Wickland presents a level-funded budget. Wickland says the budget provides Ashfield seniors with lunch get-togethers, Tai Chi classes, and transportation.

Technology Committee:

David Kulp Chair of the IT Committee is at the meeting to present the budget. Kulp highly suggest adding telecommunications money to the IT budget. We need to address document Management systems and phone system. Kulp advises if the

Town decides to sign a contract with Hilltown Networks that would save the Town approximately \$1200.00 a year.

Board of Health

Duncan Colter Chair of the Board of Health presents his budget to the Board. Colter informs the Board of Title V fees and that the health agent is paid by the hour. Expenses of \$900.00 include training for members, dues to BOH association, and sharp disposal costs.

The nurses at the flue clinic are paid by the donations collected at the clinic. The state provides the vaccine to the Town.

Document List

1. Agenda for March 3, 2014.
2. Budget Books

Approved as submitted 9/22/2014 VOTE: 2-0-1 (TO)

Note: These minutes were discussed, amended, and approved at the Select Board meeting dated 9/22/2014 and filed in the folder of the actual date of the said minutes