

Town of Ashfield Select Board

Meeting Minutes

March 17, 2014

The Ashfield Select Board meeting was held on Monday March 17, 2014 at the Ashfield Town Hall at 7:00 P.M. This meeting was a joint FY15 Budget meeting between the Finance Committee and the Select Board. There were approximately 15 audience members in attendance. There were 5 audio recorders and 1 video recorder in use. Previous Select Board meeting was March 10, 2014.

Select Board: Tom Carter-Chair, Ron Coler-Vice Chair, Paultette Leukhardt

Finance Committee: Janet Rogers, Tom Schrieber

Executive Administrator: Mary Fitz-Gibbon

Meeting was called to order by Tom Carter-Chair at 7:00 P.M.

Emergency Communications: Bill Perlman, elected FRCOG member-at-large, is present to discuss the Plainfield tower estimated costs. The tower in Plainfield would allow emergency communications in a heretofore radio communication dead-spot. (**Document 3**) The tower would contain two frequencies, one for Police, one for Fire. The remaining cost after using surplus equipment and in-kind donations would total 32,950.00. Perlman explains that his tower would not help the communication problem in Apple Valley (the other radio communications dead-spot), and gives the Board an overview of how the process of construction and costs would be dealt with. After completion of the project maintenance and operating costs will be part of the FRCOG budget.

General FY15 Budget overview and discussion.

MTRSD Budget, School Committee members Emily Robertson and Poppy Doyle are present for the discussion of the School Budget and Capital Projects. Fitz-Gibbon has an informational packet (**Document 2**) that was shared with the Board containing Capital Plan Projects. The estimated cost of the High School Capital projects is 542,850.00 over 5 years and the cost of the Sanderson projects is 228,850.00 over 5 years. This round of repairs is the first of three 5-year Capital Plan Projects.

Capital Plan repairs would start in FY15 and Towns will start paying in FY16. There will be two articles on the Annual Town meeting Warrant, one for Sanderson and one for the High School. With District schools at 30-40% enrollment there is discussion of the need to contract the amount of school space supported by District towns. Robertson points out that closing a school will be a long process and in the meantime the repairs must get done. The Board agrees to have the two Capital Plan Projects on the ballot for Annual Town Meeting May 3rd.

Board continues with further FY 15 budget review discussion.

Local Election Ballot Questions:

MOTION Carter makes a motion to direct the Town Clerk to use supplied wording for a debt exclusion question for the May 3, 2014 ballot regarding the purchase of a new Highway truck, Seconded by Coler. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye **3-0-0**

MOTION: Coler makes a motion to direct the Town Clerk to use supplied wording for a debt exclusion question for the May 3, 2014 ballot regarding a new Highland Ambulance facility, seconded by Carter. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye **3-0-0**

MOTION: Coler makes a motion to direct the Town Clerk to use supplied wording for two ballot questions pertaining to Capital Plan projects; deferred maintenance for Sanderson and the High School, seconded by Leukhardt. **VOTE:** Carter-no, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye **2-1-0**

Wage and Salary Surveys: **MOTION:** Coler makes a motion to amend the 2/26/2014 SB minutes to state that the Personnel Board Wage and Salary Survey has been superseded by the FRCOG FY14 Wage and Salary Survey, seconded by Carter. **VOTE** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye **3-0-0**

As the meeting is about to close Leukhardt, stating she has one more item. Leukhardt brings up the SB draft for the Town Report 2013, stating she would have brought it to the SB sooner but had missed the SB meeting's March 3, 2014 and March 10, 2014. Leukhardt expressed her concern that the SB may have violated the OML by deliberating and voting on the SB town report draft submitted by Carter on February 26, 2014. She submitted an email to the SB early morning February 27, 2014 with similar information. The SB draft was not posted on the SB agenda for Feb. 26, 2014, 48 hours in advance, nor was it on the agenda presented at the Feb. 26, 2014 meeting. The SB draft report for the Town Report 2013 was a document brought to the meeting by Carter for deliberation and voting at the SB meeting. Leukhardt asked that the draft be put on the agenda for March 24, 2014 so the Board could deliberate and vote the draft according to OML. Neither Carter nor Coler agreed. Leukhardt put forth that there are other items to include in the SB report, such as the Boston Post Gold Cane, voting of the Vice Chair position, three OML determinations citing the SB violated the OML, and removal of the reference to the July 31, 2013 SB meeting details. Carter expresses that the line on the agenda "items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting" would be adequate. And that the Town Report not suppose to include everything the Board covered. Coler expresses the Board has too much on its plate to revisit the report, feeling that even if we revisited it, it would not get resolved in any case. Coler thanked the Chair for writing such a well written report.

MOTION: Leukhardt makes a motion to have the Select Board report on next week's agenda to revisit and revote. No second heard. Motion fails.

Leukhardt States she cannot support the Select Board Report for the Annual Town Report.

Document List

1. Agenda for March 17, 2014.
2. Informational packet regarding Capital projects at the High School and Sanderson Academy.
3. Plainfield Tower estimated costs.
4. Personnel Board Wage and Salary Survey
5. FRCOG FY14 Wage and Salary Survey
- 6.

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

Approved as Amended 2-1-0