

Town of Ashfield Select Board

Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2014

The Ashfield Select Board meeting was held on Monday, March 24, 2014 at the Ashfield Town Hall. Tom Carter called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. There were 5 audio recorders in use during the meeting. There were about 7 audience members in attendance. Previous Select Board meeting was held March 10, 2014 at the Ashfield Town Hall. (The March 17, 2014 FY15 budget meeting was a joint meeting of the Select Board and Finance Committee.)

Select Board Members: Tom Carter- Chair, Ron Coler- Vice Chair, Paultette Leukhardt
Executive Administrator: Mary Fitz-Gibbon
Assistant Municipal Clerk, Scribe: Lynn Taylor

Review and Sign Vendor and Payroll Warrants:

WP14-20 Dated 3/24/2014(**Document 2**)

WP14-20 Dated 3/24/2014(**Document 3**)

Appointments:

MJ Adams, Director of Community Development, Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority: Disaster Recovery Grant, sign DHCD contract; review contract with HRA to administer the grant. MJ Adams gives an overview of the CDBG Disaster Recovery Grant that was awarded to Ashfield for \$375,000.00 to repair Smith Rd. Tom Poissant will continue to be the contact person regarding the grant. MJ has a brief discussion pertaining to the Block Grant, reminding the Board how important it is that we locate the Town's 504 ADA (architectural barrier removal) self- assessment plan in order to apply for future grants.

MOTION: Leukhardt makes a motion for the Chair to sign the CDBG Disaster Recovery Grant for the amount of \$375,000.00, seconded by Coler. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye. Motion passes **3-0-0**.

MOTION: Leukhardt offers a friendly amendment to include the vote from a prior meeting to debit the HRRLF account to pay the administrative costs. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye. Motion passes **3-0-0**.

Minutes:

3-10-2014 SB Minutes: **MOTION:** Coler makes a motion to accept the minutes of 3-10-2014 as amended, seconded by Carter. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt- abstain.
Motion passes **2-0-1**

8-22-2012 SB Minutes: **MOTION:** Coler makes a motion to accept the minutes of 8-22-2012 as amended, seconded by Leukhardt. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye.
Motion passes **3-0-0**

Old Business:

The Board instructs Coler regarding the follow up to Special Town Meeting approved Articles 8, 9, and 10:

MOTION: Carter makes a motion to instruct Ron Coler to contact Town Counsel pertaining to Articles 8, 9, and 10 from the Special Town Meeting: a boundary line agreement and two easements, seconded by Coler. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye.

Motion passes **3-0-0**

New Business:

Town Hall Use Applications:

There are two applications, one for the Ashfield Community Hall and one for the Ashfield Community Theatre. A third, for a meeting about the proposed pipeline, was withdrawn by Jim Cutler.

The Ashfield Community Theatre application states that rehearsals are scheduled for May 7, 10, 12, 14, 17, 19, 21, 24, 26, 27, 28 and 29. Performances are scheduled for May 30 & 31 and June 6 & 7.

MOTION: Carter makes a motion to approve the Town Hall Use Application for the Ashfield Community Theatre as described in the application, seconded by Coler. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye. Motion passes **3-0-0**.

The Ashfield Community Hall Inc. would like to hold dances in upper hall on April 26, 2014, July 26, 2014 and October 25, 2014. Proceeds to benefit Community Hall and Town Hall.

MOTION: Carter makes a motion to approve the Town Hall application for the Ashfield Community Hall as described in the application, seconded by Coler. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye. Motion passes **3-0-0**.

The Board has a very brief discussion regarding excess overlay and a possibility of requesting the assessors to review and release funds. In the approximate amount of \$ 29,000.00.

Del Haskins, Fire Chief, Alan Taylor, Assistant Chief and Matt Haskins, Captain, discussed with the Board 2 e-mails which were sent to Chief Haskins. The Fire Department members stated the e-mails were very rude and insulting both towards the Fire Department and Executive Administrator Mary Fitz-Gibbon. These e-mails were sent after a Public Document Request was filed. They explain that everything at the Ashfield House pertaining to the CO calls was done correctly, and Fitz-Gibbon has done nothing wrong by helping them out with paper work. Chief Haskins explains to the board that the departments Policies and Procedures are followed and operate according to Mass General Laws. Deb Nicholson, present in the audience, states she is not "blaming the Fire Department", however "you would not get anything rude if everything was above board and transparent". Carter and Coler agree that the language used in these requests is sometimes rude and insulting and sometimes accusatory. Carter and Coler thanked the Department for all they do. Leukhardt suggests turning these e-mails into something positive rather than negative. Leukhardt advises that Ashfield House residents were concerned with the repeated calls regarding CO.

Revisit and review FY15 Budget totals: Board reviews the FY15 budget line by line trying to cut here and there to try and balance the budget.

Fitz-Gibbon has information from Highland Ambulance pertaining to the Highland Facility that will be built. Information from her discussion with the Department of Revenue is that Ashfield's portion (assessment) cannot, in this case, be voted as a debt exclusion.

MOTION: Carter makes a motion that the Town Clerk remove the debt exclusion question pertaining to Highland Ambulance from the ballot, seconded by Coler. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye. Motion passes **3-0-0**.

MAIL:

Leukhardt distributes to the Board 4 Open Meeting Law Complaints filed by herself . Date of the Complaints March 24, 2014

Document List

1. Agenda for 3/24/2014
2. WP14-20 Dated 3/24/2014
3. WP14-20 Dated 3/24/2014
4. 3-10-2014 SB Minutes
5. 8-22-2012 SB Minutes
6. Town Hall use application for the Ashfield Community Theatre
7. Town Hall application for the Ashfield Community Hall
8. Open Meeting Law Complaint dated March 24, 2014 filed by Paulette Leukhardt.
9. Open Meeting Law Complaint dated March 24, 2014 filed by Paulette Leukhardt.
10. Open Meeting Law Complaint dated March 24, 2014 filed by Paulette Leukhardt.
11. Open Meeting Law Complaint dated March 24, 2014 filed by Paulette Leukhardt.

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 4/22/2014 3-0-0