



Ashfield Select Board Meeting

Monday, August 21, 2017, 7:00

Ashfield Town Hall, 412 Main Street, Ashfield MA 01330

Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Select Board was held in Town Hall at 7:00 PM.

Present: Todd Olanyk, Chair; Tom Carter; and Ron Coler.

Also Present: Kayce Warren, Town Administrator; Bridget Rodrigue, Town Clerk; Judy Haupt, Parks Commission; Kyle Taylor, THBC; Doug Cranson, THBC; Mary Quigley, THBC; Nancy Garvin, THBC; and Stuart Harris, THBC; David Newell, VEAC. All THBC members arrived at 7:27pm and David Newell arrived at 7:40pm.

Olanyk convened the Select Board meeting at 7:02 pm, with one recording device.

Consent Agenda –

Minutes	7/31/2017 and 8/8/2017	As submitted
Warrants	W18-05 Payroll & Vendor	

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda: Olanyk

Second: Carter

Vote: 3-0-0

Appointments with Select Board

A. Parks Commission – Town Flag Request

The Parks Commission has a flag pole at Belding Memorial Park and would like to hang a flag on this flag pole. Haupt saw an article in the paper about the creation of Westhampton's flag and thought this would be something that Ashfield could do. Judy Haupt suggested using the steeple for the flag. She said the Town could also hold a contest to see what people come up with.

Once the design is finalized, it is sent out to a flag making company. Town would own the artwork and they could even make smaller flags to sell at the Historical Society. Haupt suggests the town order three flags; one flag for the State House, one for Belding Memorial Park, and one for Town Hall. There are certain regulations for the State House flag. Haupt said Westhampton has also offered to help with the process. Westhampton was able to fund the creation of the flag solely through donations. It was also suggested that the Town place an order form in the Ashfield News in case residents are interested in ordering a flag to hang at their residence.

Haupt said the only other cost would be for a solar powered light to illuminate the flag at night, and has priced this out at \$50. She is considering applying for funding through the Mary Howes Fund. Town would own the artwork. Carter feels the Mary Howes Fund should be used to fund the contest, not the flags themselves. Coler suggested having a table at fall festival announcing the contest and recommends no requirements for the image. The Board agrees that a Town flag is a great idea and will bring the community closer together.

Haupt also stated the Parks Commission budgeted extra money for picnic tables and buoys. She would like to transfer these funds to the cost of the diving board mounting system. Olanyk feels the picnic table needs to be replaced now. A transfer can be looked at during a Town Meeting.

B. Vocational Education Coordinator – VEAC updates; bus routes, and MTRSD amendment.

David Newell is present to provide the Board with VEAC updates. Newell states it is difficult to plan the vocational budget, since the number is constantly changing. This year, Newell budgeted \$529,900 for the transportation and tuition of 22 students. He worked closely with student services to find out how likely a student, if accepted, would attend a vocational school. Newell also reached out to all returning families to determine their transportation needs.

At this point in time, numbers show 18 students will be attending vocational programs, with seven going to Smith Vocational and eleven going to Franklin Tech. There will be one van going to Franklin Tech and two vans to Smith Vocational (sharing transportation costs with other local communities heading to Smith Vocational). This is four spots less than budgeted, and will save the Town approximately \$110,000. Vocational schools also receive two forms of state aid – Chapter 70 and Chapter 74 Vocational Out of District Transportation Reimbursement.

At its last meeting, VEAC went through a reorganization and proposed an amendment to the Mohawk Regional Agreement. The proposed amendment will eliminate obsolete language, retain the rights of students seeking a vocational education, define the obligation of towns to maintain non-operating school departments for vocational purposes, clarify responsibility for the transportation of students, establish an assessment method authorizing Mohawk to pay transportation costs and assess the involved towns during the same fiscal year, clarify contract awards for transportation, and formally establish an advisory committee and define its composition and method of appointment. VEAC will consult with towns to make sure this has each town's support and approval before bringing amendment to Mohawk's October meeting. Followed by Town Meeting approval. VEAC has accomplished cooperation and communication between towns.

Newell is also concerned with the lack of transportation reimbursement from the State. Ashfield has lost approximately \$60,000 over a two year span from vocational transportation reimbursement from the state. Regional schools received 73% of the transportation reimbursement, while vocational schools have only received 6%. For Ashfield this factors out to \$4,200 per vocational student. Newell has spoken to the Governor's western mass liaison and will be meeting with Kulik, Paul, Hinds and Rosenberg. This is the only form of local aid not on the cherry sheet and Newell says it needs to be. It would take 2.5 million to bring vocational schools up to the same level as the regional schools. Newell states that charter schools are receiving the same percentage the regionals are, and this is not fair. Highest ever received was about 80%. Newell would appreciate a letter from the Board directed to Hinds and Kulik to let them know this cannot continue. Newell will prepare a draft for the Board to review.

Also, last week the Governor's liaison suggested Newell look at Community Compact Grants for the administration piece of VEAC. The Select Board appreciated Newell taking the time to provide them with this update.

Discussion/Decision Items

A. Recommendation of Steeple Contract Award – THBC

Stuart Harris said the THBC started with a three phase approach for the steeple repair in order to gain more control over the project.

Phase One – RFQ find architect, bring steeple down, and have temporary roof put up

Phase Two – Design

Phase Three – Repairs and Returning Steeple

The repair is higher than estimated. It is estimated that Phase One will cost approximately \$25,000, and Phase 2 & 3 might be anywhere from \$100,000 - \$125,000. One of the architect firms suggested considering a two phase approach as a way to save money. Olanyk said only other alternative is to wait and save money each year, but costs will increase as time goes on. Coler could go with either way.

The Board asked about the nature of the repair, and Harris explained that some of the trim on steeple needs to be replaced, along with two of the columns. There were a number of holes and water damage to the steeple. Harris also informed the Board that there is a new process where you can drill to sense the firmness of wood to tell if there is any signs of rot. Because of this new process, all the information could be discovered with the steeple sitting on the roof.

The Town Hall Building Committee is not prepared to make a recommendation tonight. They wanted to inform the Select Board that costs are higher than anticipated. Carter and Olanyk recommend bidding out Phase One to get things moving. Not sure where additional money would come from for the increased cost, but this could be figured out. THBC suggests fundraising for some of the cost, but Warren said there are a number of project in town fundraising right now. If the THBC decides they want to do some fundraising, this needs to be done privately and cannot be affiliated with the Town. The funds can be placed in a special account designated solely for the steeple repairs.

Coler recommends sending a letter to Franklin Land Trust to let them know about this project since the steeple may need to be placed on the Common. If it needs to be removed, Carter thinks it would be best to take it off in early spring. Olanyk recommends the THBC get the architectural work done as quickly as possible in order to have the information needed to go out for bid.

~~B. Bridge Repair/Replacement Update~~

~~C. Highway Garage Visits – Police Vehicle Storage Update~~

D. Hampshire Regional Council of Governments WWTP Power Supply Agreement

Warren received a power supply quote from Steve Grout at Hampshire Regional Council of Governments, which contains both brown (conventional electricity supply) and green (renewable electricity supply) prices. The green sourced supply is more expensive, but the gap has narrowed significantly to where green supply is very competitive with brown. Once the Town decides on the length of contract and the supply source, Grout will prepare a contract. Warren explains that prices have gone up since the last time a contract was signed.

The Town would be paying WMECO, but HCOG is the supplier. Olanyk confirms that the Town currently has a contract that covers 85% of our energy needs, so we are only talking about the 15% remaining. WWTP has historically had a separate contract, and Betty Nichols recommends going with the brown supply option. Coler asked to make coterminous. Olanyk and Carter would like to see more pricing information, in the form of a spreadsheet with an explanation of each option. Warren will send Steve Grout an email asking him to come to the next meeting to discuss this issue. She will also let Betty Nichols know that the Select Board did not sign off on the supply pricing. Sewer Commissioners are not meeting again until September 12th.

E. Sanderson Students Participate in Junior Olympics

This item comes to the Board every year and requires approval from the Select Board.

Motion to approve: Carter

Second: Coler

Vote: 3-0-0

F. ADA Grievance Policy Review

Warren is unable to find one on file. Once designate coordinator, you need a grievance policy. Warren has prepared an ADA Policy that protects the town and has been reviewed by counsel.

Motion to accept ADA Grievance Policy as presented: Carter

Second: Olanyk

Vote: 3-0-0

~~**G. Election Officer Appointments**~~

~~**H. Invasive Weed Update**~~

I. Town Hall Use Umbrella Insurance Update

Warren has some updated information, but would like to review with Coler before discussing with the Board.

J. Mold Remediation Update – *Will be scheduled in the next two weeks*

K. Salary Study Update – *None*

L. Broadband Project Status Update - *None*

M. Large Scale Development & Local Road Preservation Bylaw

Coler explains that the Local Road Preservation Bylaw protects roads/bridges from high impact work. Carter has some concerns with this bylaw. He explains that most fuel trucks are 20 tons. Also, businesses pay road taxes to put trucks on the road and most of this money ends up in Chapter 90 funds which is given to towns to fix their infrastructure. Coler made notes of Carter's concerns and said he will relook at this bylaw. Will report back after meeting with Peggy.

Town Administrator's Report

Spruce Corner Road Spill – Preliminary test results show this product might be waste gasoline, but there will be more research.

Community Compact – Warren put request out to see if the IT Committee would be interested in applying for an IT evaluation. Warren will also look into the VEAC administration option.

Warren would like to take some vacation time in October and November. She would like the day before and after Columbus Day and the week of Thanksgiving. Board has no issues with Warren taking these days off.

Mail

- Report from Attorney General's Office. Posting defect in one of the articles. Need to post at Town Hall and publish in a paper of local circulation, then allow for a 21 day waiting period. Rodrigue notified the Planning Board and is waiting to hear back from them regarding approval for the cost of the posting.
- Second letter from Attorney General's Office asking for extension to further look into the Senior Housing Bylaw. The AG's Office has concerns with some of the language. Carter stated that a

discussion needs to be had with Planning Board to remind them that counsel should look any bylaws before bringing to Town Meeting.

- Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership – email update from Richard Chandler discussing biofuels.
- South River Corridor Planning Project – MVP grant. FRCOG has funding to work with Ashfield and Conway to review the South River corridor mapping and discuss options for addressing river and riparian corridor protection and reducing loss and damages from flooding and fluvial erosion.
- Franklin/Hampshire Career Center Partnership with Forbes Library – Forbes will work with Career Center to provide satellite services in Northampton.

Public Comments – *None*

Carter – Town liable for deductible in lawsuit? Warren will look into this.

Items Unanticipated

A meeting was held to discuss concerns with election procedures in town. During this meeting, two election officers challenged the results of one race in the May 6, 2017, local election. Town Clerk Rodrigue has in her possession the original tally sheets from the election, and has called a special meeting for of the Board of Registrars on Tuesday, August 22, 2017, to have them view the originals and verify the results. She will have them prepare a statement with their findings at the meeting.

Upcoming meetings – **September 5, 2017**

Adjourn – **9:52 pm**

Motion to adjourn 9:52 pm: Olanyk

Second: Carter

Vote: 3-0-0

Respectfully Submitted,



Bridget S. Rodrigue
Town Clerk

Document List:

1. Agenda for August 21, 2017
2. Minutes from July 31, 2017 Meeting
3. Minutes from August 8, 2017 Meeting
4. Emails from Westhampton Regarding new flag process
5. Vocational, Agricultural & Technical Education Information Booklet – 7/19/17 Draft
6. Letter from David Newell to Donna MaNicol – 8/2/17
7. Email from David Newell discussing VEAC – 8/1/17

8. Emails from Adam Hinds and Stephen Kulik re: Vocational Transportation Reimbursement – 8/7/17, 8/6/17, and 8/3/17
9. Email from Alan Berry re: Ashfield Steeple Project – 8/21/17
10. Email from Stephen Grout re: WWTP Power Supply Contract – 8/21/2017
11. Disability Discrimination Grievance Policy
12. Local Roads Preservation Bylaw – Revised 3/1/16
13. Attorney General’s Response – STM 11/2016 & ATM 2017
14. Email from Richard Chandler re: Mohawk Trails Woodland Partnership Update
15. Email from Kimberly MacPhee re: South River Watershed Planning Project
16. Franklin Hampshire Career Center & Forbes Library Partnership notice

approved 09.05.2017