

Town of Ashfield
Select Board Minutes
November 17, 2014

The Ashfield Select Board meeting was held on Monday November 17, 2014 at the Ashfield Town Hall at 7:00 P.M. There were approximately 7 audience members in attendance. There were 5 audio recorders in use.

Previous Select Board meeting was November 03, 2014.

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

Executive Administrator: Mary Fitz-Gibbon

Assistant Municipal Clerk/Scribe: Lynn Taylor

Meeting called to order by the Chair @ 7:00 P.M.

Agenda for 11/17/2014 (document 1)

Payroll Warrant WP15-11 dated November 17, 2014 (document 2)

Vendor Warrant W15-11 dated November 17, 2014 (document 3)

Minutes:

11/3/2014: **MOTION:** Coler makes a motion to accept the minutes of 11/03/2014 as amended, seconded by Olanyk. **VOTE: 3-0-0 (document 4)**

10/22/2014: **MOTION:** Olanyk makes a motion to accept the minutes of 10/22/2014 as written, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0 (document 5)**

5/02/2014: **MOTION:** Coler makes a motion to accept the minutes of 5/02/2014 as written, seconded by Olanyk. **VOTE: 2-0-1** (Olanyk) **(document 6)**

Carter reads into the record two OML response letters that need signatures by the Board

SB Letter 1. dated 11/17/2014 to Paulette Leukhardt date of alleged violation 05/02/2014, 11/03/2014. **(document 7)**

SB Letter 2. dated 11/17/2014 to Paulette Leukhardt date of alleged violation 02/26/2014, 10/22/2014. **(document 8)**

Appointments:

- a. Emily Robertson, School Committee Update on District issues & budget: Emily distributes a handout pertaining to enrollment throughout the district. **(document 9)** Robertson has no budget numbers to share with the Board tonight the process is a little behind with the new business manager, hopefully by December she should have some preliminary numbers. Robertson attended a transportation reimbursement meeting last week the district was authorized to open a revolving account for the reimbursement money if and when it was received, however with 9C cuts it may be taken away before it is given to the District. If the money is to be received it should come in around June. Ted Murray and David Newell of the Finance Committee were both present and made note that they were on-board with the revolving account should the money come in. Robertson informed the Board of the recent State of the District Address. If they wish to view the power-point presentation it is on the website. (Approx. 25 min.)
- b. Library Board of Trustees, Request to appoint Sandra Carter: Marcine Eisenberg and Caroline Murray are recommending the appointment of Sandra Carter to the Belding Library Trustees after the recent resignation of Nancy Intres. **MOTION:** Olanyk makes a motion to appoint Sandra Carter to the Belding Library Board of Trustees, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 2-0-1** (Carter). There is a brief discussion regarding the driveway and parking area out in back of the Library, Eisenberg has spoken with Poissant at the Highway Dept. she was waiting to hear from him. Carter expressed that in his opinion this was not something for the highway to take on. There are a lot of drainage issues to deal with before expanding the parking lot. A thought that was talked about was maybe hooking to the Town Sewer and doing drainage work out there before working on the parking lot. Eisenberg agrees that drainage is a huge issue. Not long ago the Library had damage caused by water coming in. Coler is going to help out by first looking at the area and

deeds etc. to see if this project will need an Engineer or not the Board's feeling is it should be fixed right one time. (approx. 20 min)

- c. Ted Murray, Chair of Finance Committee; Selection of an Auditor SB Vote, Revision to the proposed Financial Policies Manual, Ashfield Preschool Murray reviews with the Board his proposed Financial Policies Manual. After reviewing with the Assessors he proposes a change to #5 it will now read Property values should be certified annually. With that one change Murray asks the Board for approval. **MOTION:** Coler makes a motion to approve the Financial Policies Manual for the Town of Ashfield with the amendment provided, Seconded by Olanyk. **VOTE:** 3-0-0

Murray distributes a spreadsheet detailing comparisons from three auditing firms that responded with quotes (**document 10**). Our current Auditor Scanlon and Associates South Deerfield MA with a quote of \$15,000.00, MelansonHeath Greenfield MA \$12,500.00(if Town can wait until March)otherwise \$14,000.00, and Roselli, Clark & Associates Woburn MA. \$13,000.00

All firms quotes are for FY 14, 16, 18 audits. After a discussion regarding everyone's opinions, likes and dislikes the board decides to move forward with Roselli, Clark & Associates of Woburn MA for FY 14, 16, 18 Audits. **MOTION:** Carter makes a motion to accept the proposal from Roselli, Clark & Associates for FY 14, 16, 18 audits, Seconded by Olanyk. **VOTE:** 3-0-0

Follow up regarding Town Funds being used for the Preschool which is private. Fitz-Gibbon spoke with the DOR who really did not have an answer. Murray contacted a lawyer who was referred by Dept. of Local Services. The lawyers said that public funds cannot be used for private use. Perhaps some of the wording in some of the Town trusts would say otherwise. Murray looked into this only one might be workable that was the William Hathaway fund. The income from this trust was for the intention of help for needy children or their families. Murray's opinion is more research needs to be done. (approx. 1/2 hr.)

- d. Appoint Reserve Officer to the PD: Chief Diane Wilder introduces to the Board Patrick Gonzalez of Springfield who she would like the Board to appoint as a reserve Officer. Gonzalez graduated in 2010 from the part time Academy, has been in the field for 4 ½ Yrs. trained in CPR, radar has worked for Sunderland & Hatfield. **MOTION:** Carter makes a motion to appoint Patrick Gonzalez as a Part Time Officer to the Ashfield PD, Seconded by Olanyk. **VOTE: 3-0-0** (approx. 5 min)

Old Business:

- a. Aquatic Control Technology report on Ashfield Lake invasive species fanwort (**document 11**): Coler advises that he has heard back from only two diving firms both of them would be able to get in the water next week because time is of the essence for this project. The line item for this project would give 3 to 4 days of dive time to remove the fanwort. Coler and Fitz-Gibbon will continue to move forward with the project. (approx. 5 min)
- b. Smith Branch Rd. project request letter (**document 12**): Carter advises that the project for the Smith Rd construction needs to wait until summer to be finished in order for the level of the brook to be at its lowest. Coler advises that there will be on Conservation Commission meeting/hearing for the Smith Rd. project on January 14 at the Town Hall. Carter reads the extension letter into the record. **MOTION:** Coler makes a motion for the Chair to sign the letter of extension for Smith Branch Rd. project, Seconded by Olanyk. **VOTE: 3-0-0.** Carter also signs a normal disbursement for engineering in the amount of \$12,300.00 for Smith Branch Rd. (**document 13**)
Carter has recently spoken to MJ regarding the funding for the project, the thought that was maybe the Town could qualify for a larger pot of money. MJ explained that a household income study would have to be done for homes in the affected area, which there are 5 homes involved. The Board doesn't see an issue, Fitz-Gibbon will let MJ know. (approx. 10min)

New Business:

- a. MBI/Broadband proposals: Olanyk and Coler attended the Broadband meeting in Charlemont and Carter attended a meeting in New Salem. All

members found the meeting interesting. However the opinions were that 3 million dollars is a lot of money and it's inconceivable that The Town of Ashfield can afford to do this. Ashfield is the second highest next to the Town of Becket, Ashfield has 80 miles of roads and a lack of density in the area. MBI would like this on Town floors at their Annual Town meetings. Chris Lynch from Matrix a company is in the audience he works for a company that will do the Broadband hookup quicker and cheaper. Lynch would like the opportunity to meet with the SB, Finance Committee and the IT Committee to explain who and what his options would be. The SB will try and pull something together for a December 8th meeting date. (approx. 1/2hr.

- b. Board of Health Town Hall use application (**document14**): BOH would like to use Town Hall for a seminar and presentation regarding bedbugs. The date of the seminar will be December 10, 2014 at 6.00 P.M. **MOTION:** Olanyk makes a motion to approve the Town Hall use application for the BOH seminar on bedbugs December 10, 2014 @6:00 PM, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0**

The Board has a conversation with Murray before he leaves regarding joint budget meetings. Murray will speak with his committee Mondays will work better for all SB members same as last year.

Liaison Reports:

Olanyk recently spoke with Tom Poissant from Highway he advises that winter road prep is fully underway. There has been no dump attendant hired yet. Olanyk reported that Poissant walked the dump test wells with Tighe & bond there is no set date yet but the testing will start soon.

Mail:

- Support letter from the Town of Plainfield regarding Fin Comm. letter (**document 15**)
- Flyer regarding cold relief is Available on table in Town Hall (**document 16**)
- Senior Center newsletter (**document 17**)

- Email from the Assessors requesting to be put on the Agenda for Dec 15 regarding tax classification. **(document 18)**
- Letter from Sec. of State regarding to appeals. **(document 19)**

Public Comment: None

Next Select Board meeting December 1, 2014 @7:00 PM

Coler makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Olanyk. **VOTE 3-0-0**

Adjourned @ 9:17 PM

Document List:

1. Agenda for 11/17/2014
2. Payroll Warrant WP15-11 dated November 17, 2014
3. Vendor Warrant W15-11 dated November 17, 2014
4. Minutes of 11/03/2014
5. Minutes of 10/22/2014
6. Minutes of 5/02/2014
7. Letter dated 11/17/2014 to Paulette Leukhardt date of alleged violation 05/02/2014, 11/03/2014.
8. Letter dated 11/17/2014 to Paulette Leukhardt date of alleged violation 02/26/2014, 10/22/2014.
9. Handout pertaining to enrollment throughout the district.
10. spreadsheet detailing comparisons from three auditing firms that responded with quotes
11. Aquatic Control Technology report on Ashfield Lake invasive species fanwort
12. Smith Branch Rd. project request letter
13. Normal disbursement for engineering in the amount of \$12,300.00 for Smith Branch Rd.
14. Board of Health Town Hall use application
15. Support letter from the Town of Plainfield regarding Fin Comm. letter
16. Flyer regarding cold relief is Available on table in Town Hall
17. Senior Center news letter

18. Email from the Assessors requesting to be put on the Agenda for Dec 15 regarding tax classification.

19. Letter from Sec. of State regarding to appeals.

Approved as Amended 12/01/2014 3-0-0

Note: These minutes were discussed, amended, and approved at the Select Board meeting dated 12/01/2014 and filed in the folder of the actual date of the said minutes