

Town of Ashfield
Select Board Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2015

The Ashfield Select Board meeting was held on Tuesday November 17, 2015 at the Ashfield Town Hall at 7:00 P.M. There were approximately 6 audience members in attendance. There was 1 audio recorder in use.

Previous Select Board Meeting was November 02, 2015

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

Assistant Municipal Clerk/Scribe: Lynn Taylor

Finance Committee: Ted Murray-Chair, David Newell (Did not have a quorum)

Meeting was called to order by chair @ 7:04 PM

Town Hall use application submitted by Ricki Carroll to use Lower Hall January 1, 2015 for a community potluck.

MOTION: Carter makes a motion to approve the Town Hall use application for January 1, 2015 for a Community Potluck and the SB appoint Ricki Carroll to head up the event, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0**

Present from the School Committee were Emily Robertson, Poppy Doyle, Michael Buoniconti- Superintendent, Michael Kociela – Business Manager.

Buoniconti distribute spreadsheets for the Boards to review regarding capital improvements and Rowe Grant Funds. **(document 2)**

For Annual Town Meeting the School Committee is looking to have 3 or 4 articles on the Warrant regarding the Regional Agreement. 1. Cleanup of wording (ex. Changing k-12 to prek-12) 2. Inviting Rowe back into the District (not sure if it will be with a buy in or not) 3. Change the amendment process from unanimous to 2/3 vote except to close a Grammar School.

Hopefully this can be complete by December and have a public hearing in February.

FY17 Budget Discussion: Should be no more than a 2½ % increase. Health Insurance is estimated at a 5% increase. David Newell advises there will be a spike in Tuition for the Vocational Schools there is only two graduating Seniors this year, and new enrollment is usually high.

Carter advises Free Cash is in in the amount of \$ 222 K.

Also that at the STM on 11/18/2015 we will be asking to take \$65,000.00 from excess Levy Capacity to Stabilization to start stockpiling for perhaps Broadband.

David Newell would like to see a Stabilization account for the Vocational Schools formed.

Ted Murray questions the Transfer Station Expenditures that are coming \$8,000.00 to \$1 Million. The Board requests that Taylor email a copy of the Tighe and Bond Report done for the Transfer Station.

Contract with the Commonwealth for the Seniors Center Grant needs to be voted on and signed (document 3): **MOTION:** Olanyk makes a motion to sign Grant fund contract with the Commonwealth for the benefit of the Senior Center, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0**

Carter has spoken with town Counsel regarding the Personnel Policy she is suggesting some changes and will be sending it back to the Board for review and then will be going back to the Personnel Board. After a discussion of the Board Carter will call McNicol back and have her only review sections 1-15. Also McNicol advises she is representing four different Towns in regards to Wired West and she will be splitting her cost amongst the four Towns in which she represents. McNicol also advises her opinion that withholding information requests regarding Kinder Morgan is not the correct process even though she understands why Ashfield is progressing the way they are.

Olanyk brings up the issue of formally Joining MCAP he distributes the mission statement and reads it into the record. (**document 4**) **MOTION:** Olanyk makes a motion to formally join MCAP with no financial obligation or commitment. Discussion of this matter is that it is not on the agenda and the letter drafted by Olanyk should be cleaned up a little. Will be put on the Agenda for 11/23/2015 that meeting will start at 6:30 PM

Mike Fitzgerald Chair of the Planning Board has sent 3 articles to Town Counsel for review.

Coler advises that we did not get the Mass Works Grant in which he had applied for. He will now be going through the review process.

Next Select Board Meeting will be November 18, 2015 for a Tax Classification Hearing.

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

Adjourned at 9:17 PM

Document List:

1. Agenda for 11/17/2015
2. Spreadsheets from Buoniconti
3. Contract with the Commonwealth for the Seniors Center Grant
4. MCAP Mission Statement