

Town of Ashfield Select Board

Meeting Minutes

September 23, 2013

The Ashfield Select Board meeting was held on Monday September 23, 2013 at the Ashfield Town Hall. Tom Carter- Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. There were five audio recorders and one video recorder in use during the meeting, there were approximately four audience members in attendance. Previous Select Board meeting was held on September 16, 2013.

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

Executive Administrator: Mary Fitz-Gibbon

Scribe: Assistant Municipal Clerk: Lynn Taylor

Warrants:

Board reviews and signs payroll and Vendor warrants.

Payroll Warrant WP14-07 dated September 23, 2013 (DOCUMENT 1)

Vendor Warrant W14-07 dated September 23, 2013 (DOCUMENT 2)

Leukhardt and Carter sign two previously discussed and voted on Verizon Petitions. Petition for Verizon Job #6ABWZB-3 and #6ABWZB-2 both dated July 5, 2013.(DOCUMENTS 3 & 4)

MINUTES:

SB Minutes of July 15, 2013: Leukhardt shares with the Board an addendum she would like to have attached to the minutes regarding the ethical issue (DOCUMENT 5). Coler disagrees he feels the minutes are accurate as they are presented. Carter does not have a problem with the addendum he feels the minutes as presented say the same as the addendum only worded differently.

MOTION: Carter makes a motion to accept the minutes of July 15, 2013 as amended and including amendment #1 drafted by Paultette Leukhardt, Seconded by Leukhardt. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-nay, Leukhardt-aye. Passes 2-1-0 (DOCUMENT 6)

SB Minutes of July 31, 2013:**MOTION:** Leukhardt makes a motion to accept the minutes of July 31, 2013 as amended, seconded by Coler. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye.Passes 3-0-0(DOCUMENT 7)

*SB Minutes of September 12, 2013: **MOTION:** Carter makes a motion to accept the minutes of September 12, 2013 as amended, seconded by Leukhardt. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-abstain, Leukhardt-aye. Passes 2-0-1(DOCUMENT 8)*

*SB Minutes of September 16, 2013: **MOTION:** Carter makes a motion to accept the minutes of September 16, 2013 as amended, seconded by Leukhardt. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-abstain, Leukhardt-aye. Passes 2-0-1(DOCUMENT 9)*

APPOINTMENTS:

Del Haskins and Bill Perlman have a discussion with the Board regarding the poor radio reception for both Fire and Police. Perlman gives an overview of what the FRCOG radio committee has been trying to do and its plans for the future. As of now there is a dead spot in and around Apple Valley and Spruce Corner area. The Committee is trying to get some used equipment from Berkshire County and set it up on a tower in Plainfield owned by WMECO at minimal cost to Ashfield. For now Fire is able to contact Northampton Control who can relay to Shelburne Control in the dead area in Spruce Corner if needed, however there is no solution for Apple Valley. Brian Clark asked the question "if we had cell phone coverage would that be helpful?" Perlman said certainly that would help.

AFG 2013 Grant: Haskins informs the Board that Ashfield was denied the Assistant Fire Fighters Grant for 2013 that they applied for to purchase a new Fire Truck. Haskins informs the Board that he will be applying again in order to replace the 1987 brush truck.

Meeting is recessed at 8:15 PM Carter meets in private with Trooper O'Conner from the Mass State Police. Returns from recess at 8:20 PM stating that there is no need for Executive Session. Trooper O'Conner is investigating a complaint at the corner of Bug Hill Rd and Watson Spruce Corner Rd of a man who resides on Baptist Corner Rd that dug up the black top Rd and planted a tree.

Haskins continues his discussion with the Board. Haskins will apply for a Federal Grant in October which if awarded the Town will need to come up with 5%. The FD received the SAFE grant this year they received \$2600.00 for the Schools and new this year \$ 1500.00 for Seniors. This grant costs the Town nothing and we have one year to spend the money.

Haskins informs the Board that ten of his Fire Fighters went to a special MIIA driving training class which in turn should help with our Town MIIA insurance.

Haskins informs the Board of Jake Niquette who he is very proud of has graduated from the Springfield Fire Academy. Jake went to school for six months finishing Fire Fighter 1 and 2 . Jake is the only Ashfield Fire Fighter to ever complete this course. Haskins shares photos he took at Niquette's graduation.

Carter advised Fitz-Gibbon to draft a letter for each of the Fire Fighters that completed the driver Training and also draft a letter to Jake Nicquette regarding his recent graduation from the Fire Academy.

OLD BUSINESS:

FY 14 FRCOG Accounting Services Contract: Fitz-Gibbon reviews the red lined changes from FY 2013 from Kopelman & Paige and the FY14 version from the FRCOG with the Board. After a short discussion Leukhardt would like to send FY 14 contract to Kopelman & Paige again ,however Carter doesn't feel it necessary to pay that firm to review the contract again. It was decided that Fitz-Gibbon would make sure all Board members have both red lined copies e-mailed to them for their review and the contract will be on the agenda for the Boards next meeting.(DOCUMENTS 10-11)

Select Board letters to the Legislators Kulik, Rosenberg, and Downing regarding school district assessments dated September 12, 2013 needs to be signed by the Board. The Board signs the letters and are given to Fitz-Gibbon to be mailed.(DOCUMENT 12-14)

NEW BUSINESS:

Select Board letters to the Legislators regarding FRCOG and State Retirement: The Board has a short discussion relating to the content of the letter before signing the letter. MOTION: Coler makes a motion to sign letter to the State Legislators dated September 23, 2013 relative to FRCOG and State Retirement System, seconded by Leukhardt. VOTE: Carter –aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye passes 3-0-0 (DOCUMENT 15-16)

The Board signs the letters and are given to Fitz-Gibbon to be mailed.

Liaison Reports: none

Coler distributes to the Board three documents 1. A memorandum RE: Status of Various Grants being Pursued(DOCUMENT 17). Board will review the memorandum, Fitz-Gibbon will add to the agenda for the next regular Select Board meeting. 2. A Copy of a draft Mowing & Access Easement with the Nolans(DOCUMENT 18). Coler at this point would like to have Town Attorney look the document over. MOTION: Carter makes a motion to authorize Coler to go to Town Counsel with the draft Copy of the Mowing & Access Easement, seconded by Leukhardt. VOTE: Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye passes 3-0-0 3. A packet from the last FRCOG meeting of August 14, 2013(DOCUMENT 19)

Carter brings Coler up to speed on the Bronson Ave parking lot issues since Coler was not able to be at the last couple of Select Board meetings.

Last week Carter, Leukhardt and Fitz-Gibbon attended an Advanced Open Meeting Law Class at the FRCOG. A brief discussion takes place amongst the Board members pertaining to things that caught their attention during the meeting. For example Minutes of a Board do not need to be long and drawn out, they only need to be an accurate summary of the meeting not super detailed. Peoples personal Identification RE. birthdates on Street Lists they should be taken of the street lists for identity security.

Carter would propose to the Board that next week's meeting they go into Executive Session and review the old Executive Session minutes and to discuss a personnel issue at the Highway Dept.

Coler would like to see the Board start meeting every other week on Warrant weeks. Carter is in agreement, however the Executive Session minutes need to be reviewed.

MOTION: Carter makes a motion that starting on October 21, 2013 the Board will meet every other week until the end of the year, seconded by Coler. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye passes 3-0-0

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Betty Stewart expresses her concerns with joining the State Retirement System. Stewart feels the Franklin County Retirement System is doing a great job.

Upcoming Select Board meetings will be:

September 30, 2013 entering into Executive Session

October 7, 2013 Regular Select Board meeting

MOTION: Carter makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Coler. **VOTE** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye passes 3-0-0

Adjourned @10:15 PM

DOCUMENT LIST FOR 9/23/13

1. Payroll Warrant WP14-07 dated September 23, 2013
2. Vendor Warrant W14-07 dated September 23, 2013
3. Petition for Verizon Job #6ABWZB-3 dated July 5, 2013
4. Petition for Verizon Job #6ABWZB-2 dated July 5, 2013
5. amendment #1 drafted by Poullette Leukhardt to be attached to July 15, 2013 SB Minutes
6. amended minutes of July 15, 2013
7. amended minutes of July 31, 2013
8. amended minutes of September 12, 2013
9. amended minutes of September 16, 2013
10. red lined version of FY14 FRCOG Accounting Services Contract
11. red lined version of FY13 FRCOG Accounting Services Contract (from Kopelman & Paige)
- 12-14. Select Board letters to the Legislators Kulik, Rosenberg, and Downing regarding school district assessments dated September 12, 2013
- 15-16. Select Board letters to the Legislators regarding FRCOG and State Retirement dated September 23, 2013
17. A memorandum RE: Status of Various Grants being Pursued
18. A Copy of a draft Mowing & Access Easement with the Nolans

19. *A packet from the last FRCOG meeting of August 14, 2013*
20. *Agenda used in Select Board meeting of September 23, 2013*
21. *Amended minutes of September 23, 2013*

Note: These minutes were discussed, amended, and approved at the Select Board meeting dated 9/30/2013 and filed in the folder of the actual date of the said minutes.