

Select Board Minutes

March 21, 2012

Present: Select Board Members Norm Russell, Chair; Doug Field, Paullette Leukhardt
Interim Executive Administrator Mary Fitz-Gibbon

APPOINTMENTS:

Harry Dodson, Tree Committee: 60 Trees were planted last fall. We are planning to replace dead Town Common trees. Committee has set a fundraising goal of \$12,000.- \$16,000. Harry reads a letter requesting more money for Tree Warden budget for maintenance of trees. Tree Committee & Tree Warden met with Asplundh in regards to the planned cuts on Baptist Corner Road. Tree Committee's next meeting will be 3/29/12, 12:00 noon, Dodson & Associates Building.

David Kulp, Technology Committees' consolidation: Kulp would like to see one Tech Committee formed merging Telecom, Web Committee and IT (information technology) issues in Town Hall, Broadband issues, and formation of the Municipal Light Plant with David Kulp as Manager. No budget for now but there may need to be one in the future.

7:35 p.m. FY13 Budget Meeting with the Finance Committee:

Ambulance: Pat Thayer and Doug Mollison present representing Highland Ambulance Service (HAS). Ambulance budget is up \$5,300. Pat states 83% of the budget is salaries. There has been a drop in night volunteers and HAS will now be paying for night coverage. The budget includes salary increases to \$20.00/hr. to stay competitive (for staff) with other services in the Valley. EMT's have gone without a pay increase for three years. Fuel costs have also increased.

Veterans Graves: Kurt Pichette presents the budget and reminds the Board that the for years the budget was \$1,000. Since the budget reductions of a couple of years ago the budget has stayed at \$750.00. Pichette would like to see it go back to \$1,000. By law we need to provide flags and markers for the veterans' graves.

Senior Center: Wayne Wickland, Ashfield Council on Aging (COA), reports that there have been staffing changes within the center. Penny Spearance from the Senior Center reviewed the budget numbers with the two boards.

Website Contract: Ted Murray, Finance Committee Chair, asked if the Town did not sign the contract with Charlie Heath could the Town continue to maintain the website ourselves. David Kulp says that a lot of the programs on the website are owned by Charlie Heath and we would really have to start the website from scratch. However, Ashfield does own the address Ashfield.org.

Finance Committee adjourns @10:20 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS:

Minutes: March 14, 2012 Minutes approved; February 29, 2012 minutes approved.

NEW BUSINESS:

Emergency Management grant: Doug Field explains the matching grant which will allow emergency provisions for 25 people. With the Board's approval Field will submit the grant application.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Select Board Wednesday, March 28, 2012, 7 p.m.

Meeting closes, 10:50 p.m.