

Town of Ashfield Select Board

Meeting Minutes

December 30, 2013

The Ashfield Select Board meeting was held on Monday, December 30, 2013 at the Ashfield Town Hall. Tom Carter called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. There were 4 audio recorders and 1 video recorder in use during the meeting. There were about 25 audience members in attendance. Previous Select Board meeting was held December 16, 2013 at the Ashfield Town Hall.

Select Board Members: Tom Carter- Chair, Ron Coler- Vice Chair- **absent**, Poullette Leukhardt

Executive Administrator: Mary Fitz-Gibbon

Assistant Municipal Clerk, Scribe: Lynn Taylor

Tom Carter announces the passing of Susan Clark asking for a moment of silence in honor of Susan before the start of the meeting. Susan was a member of the Ashfield Board of Health also scribing minutes for the Select Board in the absence of Lynn Taylor.

The Board reviewed and signed the Warrants:

Payroll Warrant WP 14-14 dated December 31, 2013 **(Document 1)**

Vendor Warrant W 14-14 dated December 31, 2013 **(Document 2)**

MINUTES:

Minutes of 12/16/2013 moved to the meeting of 1/06/2014.

Appointments:

Discussion of History Project:

Don Robinson and Phylis Kirkpatrick both members of Town History project were present to bring the Board up to date on how the History Project was progressing. The new history book will be for the years of 1960-2010, most of the writings have been written by volunteers, editing is being done by Chris Jerome. Pat Thayer is doing the biographical section, therefore keeping cost down, however the printing will have to be hired out which will cost money, at this point the History Project is not sure how much.

MJ Adams, Director of Community Development, Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority: Review and vote on updated Community Development Strategy; Discussion of the Town's need for supplemental fuel assistance. **(Document 3)** An edited

version of the Community Development Strategy has been sent to Mary Fitz-Gibbon. Mary will forward the edited version to the Board for review, which will need to be approved and submitted by January 13, 2014. MJ Adams from RDA and Peter Winn from Franklin County Community Action have a discussion with the Board pertaining to supplemental fuel assistance which could be available under the Housing Rehab Community Development Block Grant to help fill the gap in federal funding for fuel assistance.

OLD BUSINESS:

Approve final FY15 budget letter and schedule: Ted Murray brings to the Board a copy of the budget letter which he drafted per the request of the Select Board. **(Documents 4)** The Board reviews the draft and feels only one change needs to be made changing payroll raises from 2.5% to 2.0% in the letter. The Board also reviewed the budget schedule; fine for now, if changes needed to be made at a later date they could do that. (Document 5)

MOTION: Carter makes a motion to accept the FY15 budget letter drafted by Ted Murray changing payroll raises from 2.5% to 2.0%, seconded by Leukhardt. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Leukhardt-aye. 2-0-0

MOTION: Carter makes a motion to accept the FY15 budget schedule as drafted changing as needed, seconded by Leukhardt. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Leukhardt-aye. 2-0-0

Ashfield Police Department interim administration planning: Carter asked to be named the Liaison to the Police Department starting immediately. He also has learned that the Chair of the Select Board in the absence of a Police Chief will be the person in charge.

MOTION: Carter makes a motion to be appointed as the liaison to the Police Dept. starting immediately, seconded by Leukhardt. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Leukhardt-aye. 2-0-0

The Board continues with a lengthy discussion regarding how to move forward with the vacant Chief position. Carter's feeling is that Wilder would do great job as interim acting Police Chief until such time a long-term decision can be made. Carter met with the Police Department at their monthly meeting last week. The department is quite functional and the rest of the department is fine with Wilder stepping in to fill the police Chief vacancy. Carter reads into the record an e-mail from an attorney for the Mass. Police chief's Association **(document 6)** advising that a part time Chief working up to 37 hrs. does not need to be fulltime academy trained. Leukhardt's feeling is that anyone who fills the Chiefs position should be full time academy trained as suggested by Wayne Sampson back in 2010. Leukhardt says it's nothing personal against Wilder just her preference to go with a full time academy trained Chief. Ted Murray a Select Board member back in 2010 who contacted Sampson, explains to the Board that back in 2010 that was a very different time and situation. Ricki Carroll member of the Personnel Board asks Carter why this matter is not put in the hands of the Personnel Board for them to be involved in hiring the Chief. Carter informs Carroll that he had done some research on the Personnel Board by laws, and nowhere in there does it state the Personnel Board must be involved. Carter reads the MGL 108 C approved in May of 2003. **(Document 7)** Carter asked Wilder about her feelings being in charge of her husband Charlie Wilder who is an Officer for Ashfield. Wilder informs the board that Charlie is not on the regular police schedule he is the go to guy for filling in. Not being able to come to an agreement Carter and Leukhardt decide to

wait for Coler to return. A meeting for Monday January 6, 2014 at 7:00 will be posted to discuss further.

For the weekend, it is decided to appoint Wilder Officer- in- Charge from 1/3/2014 @4:00PM to 1/6/2014 @ 7:00 PM.

MOTION: Leukhardt makes a motion to appoint Diane Wilder to Officer- in- Charge from 1/3/2014 @4:00PM to 1/6/2014 @ 7:00PM, seconded by Carter. **VOTE:** 2-0-0

Proposed Personnel Policies: Moved to another night

NEW BUSINESS:

Sign Green Communities Grant Extension will give us another year.

MOTION: carter makes a motion to sign the Extension for the Green Communities Grant giving one more year, seconded by Leukhardt. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Leukhardt-aye

MAIL: Block Grant Disaster for Smith Branch Rd. has been awarded in the amount of \$375,000.00 when the final application arrives, it will need to be signed. **(Document 10)**

MOTION: Leukhardt makes a motion to authorize the Select Board Chair Tom Carter to sign the Disaster Block Grant for Smith Branch Rd., seconded by Carter. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Leukhardt. 2-0-0

- Email from Chief Droney informing the Board that the PD has been approved for the MIIA Grant to purchase an in-car camera in the amount of \$4,820.00(document 8)
- Packet from Leukhardt including 3 e-mails pertaining to the CO detectors in the Ashfield House **(Document 9)**
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Next SB meeting will be January 6, 2014 @ 7:00PM

Leukhardt makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Carter. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Leukhardt-aye 2-0-0

Adjourned at 9:28 PM

DOCUMENT LIST

1. Payroll Warrant WP 14-14 dated December 31, 2013
2. Vendor Warrant W 14-14 dated December 31, 2013
3. Community Development Strategy
4. FY15 budget letter drafted by Ted Murray
5. FY15 budget schedule drafted by Ted Murray
6. e-mail from an attorney for the Mass. Police chief's Association
7. Personnel Board by law approve in May 2003
8. Email from Chief Droney regarding MIIA grant
9. Packet from Leukhardt including 3 e-mails pertaining to the CO detectors in the Ashfield House
10. Award letter from Commonwealth of Mass. informing the Town that it has been awarded FY 13 Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery.

11. Meeting agenda
12. Draft Minutes

Note: These minutes were discussed, amended, and approved at the Select Board meeting dated 01-27-2014 and filed in the folder of the actual date of the said minutes.