

Town of Ashfield
Select Board Meeting
February 18, 2015

The Select Board held a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and Tech Committee on February 18, 2015. The meeting was held at the Ashfield Town Hall at 6:00 P.M. There were 6 audio recorders and 1 video recorder in use. There were approximately 2 Town residents not including all the members of attending Boards.

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

Finance Committee: Ted Murray-Chair, David Newell, Tom Schrieber

Tech Committee: David Kulp-Chair, Brian Clark, Andy Smith

Executive Administrator: Mary Fitz-Gibbon

Assistant Municipal Clerk: Lynn Taylor, Scribe

Agenda for 2/18/2015 (**document 1**)

Carter called SB Meeting to order @ 6:06 PM

Kulp Called Tech Comm. to order @ 6:07 PM

Murray Called the Fin Comm. to order @ 6:08 PM

Joe Markarian from FRCOG and Jim Drawe from Wired West are at the meeting to give a power point presentation on Broadband.

There was a long productive discussion, many questions and answers were talked out. Markarian's opinion is the numbers that are available now regarding the costs are accurate. According to his figures on the power point spreadsheet (**document 2**) the gross cost should be \$3,710,000.00 with the Town net obligation of \$2,300,000.00 after Ashfield's share of the \$40,000,000.00 state grant. Markarian shows different variables and scenarios within the spreadsheet. Changes in the average tax bill will range from \$4.56 to yr. six at \$190.93 depending on the Town's Financing option. For this to pass for a bond obligation it would need a 2/3 vote on town meeting floor, and contingent on passing of the debt exclusion. Of

Ashfield's share of the \$40,000,000.00 grant 10 million would be given immediately, 15 million in July of 2015, and last 15 million July of 2016. Markarian will e-mail spread sheet to the SB members and Fin Com members. This project will involve 32 other towns. Connection fees will be about \$100.00 any driveway longer than 300 ft. will be charge to homeowner roughly \$450.00 per pole to get made ready. Carter expresses his opinion regarding charging more for those who want to be connected which would decrease the amount of tax increase on everyone. The whole town should not have to pay for everyone else's fiber optics. The response was they wanted to keep it affordable for all residents that wanted fiber optics and also feel that they will get more customers if the price for hookup was kept low.

The Boards still are hesitant and curious therefore it is mentioned that this does not necessarily have to go to Town Meeting in May. We can always wait until we have enough information and feel comfortable with the information that we have, and vote at summer or fall STM.

Carter would like Fitz-Gibbon to put the sample letter regarding Wired West for the Boards review on next Monday's agenda for review and discussion.

Town Caucus warrant needs to be signed: Caucus will be Tues March 10, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. at Town Hall. Board members sign. **(document 3)**

Appointment of Trish Carlo to Police Department: Trish currently works for Savoy and Plainfield Police Departments and is an EMT as well.

MOTION: Carter makes a motion to appoint Trish Carlo as reserve officer to the Ashfield Police Department, seconded by Olanyk. VOTE: 3-0-0

Ted Murray and Tom Carter will get together and figure out a budget schedule that will work for both the SB and Fin. Com.

Murray advices the Finance Committee will continue their meeting in Lynn's office.

Kulp advices the Tech Committee will also continue their meeting.

The SB minutes will be moved to Monday January 23 for approval

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

Meeting adjourned @ 8:30 P.M.

Document List

1. Agenda for 2/18/2015
2. Spreadsheet used by Markarian in his power point presentation
3. Town Caucus Warrant 3/10/2015
- 4.

Note: These minutes were discussed, amended, and approved at the Select Board meeting dated 2/23/2015 and filed in the folder of the actual date of the said minutes

Approved as amended 2/23/2015 3-0-0