

Town of Ashfield Select Board

Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2014

The Ashfield Select Board meeting was held on Monday March 31, 2014 at the Ashfield Town Hall at 7:00 P.M. This meeting was a joint FY 15 Budget meeting between the Finance Committee and the Select Board. There were approximately 15 audience members in attendance. There were 5 audio recorders and 1 video recorder in use. Previous Select Board meeting was March 24, 2014.

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

Finance Committee: Janet Rogers, Tom Schreiber, Ted Murray-Chair, David Newell

Executive Administrator: Mary Fitz-Gibbon

Meeting was called to order by Tom Carter-Chair at 7:06 P.M.

Open Meeting Law Complaints:

Leukhardt filed four OML complaints against her own Select Board at the end of the 3/24/2014 meeting. Suzanne Corbett also filed an OML complaint against the Select Board within 24 Hrs. of Leukhardt filing her Complaints.

There is a discussion pertaining to the legal expense line for FY15. There is approximately \$2,600.00 left in FY14 budget line. Coler advises that from FY 13 May- May there were 18 OML and 35 PDR so far FY14 May-March there have been 14 OML and 28 PDR so I don't believe there is an end in sight.

Carter feels that the line will definitely need to be increased from the FY14 figure of \$10,000.00. Coler suggests \$15,000.00 Janet Rogers Finance Comm. a more realistic number would be \$20,000.00, Ted Murray Finance Comm. –Chair agrees with the \$20,000.00 in that line item.

Leukhardt advises the rest of her Board and the Finance Committee that if they want to save money “STOP VIOLATING THE OML” “this Board chooses to violate the OML and chooses to use Town Counsel.” Carter feels that Town Counsel may have a response letter available for the April 7th meeting but Leukhardt would be in a conflict voting on the SB response to her own complaints. Coler's scheduled absence from the April 7th meeting would be a problem.

MOTION: Coler makes a motion for the Chair of the SB to sign a the advised response from Town Counsel regarding Leukhardt's 4 OML Complaints, seconded by Carter. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-abstain. **2-0-1**

FY 15 Budget A. Police B. Schools, Vocational Cost; C. Ambulance D. General Government E. Capital Accounts F. Public Safety G. Cultural/Recreational H. Sanitation Services I. Highway J. Debt Services K. Review/Revisit all budget totals L. sidewalks

POLICE: Chief Wilder presents a second adjusted budget per the Select Board request (**Document 5**). The Board reviews with Wilder the presented budget for FY15 questioning Wilder on hours, APD dues, and staffing.

Wilder submits to the Board job description for Police Clerk to the Board. (**Document 2**)

MOTION: Coler makes a motion to approve the job description for the Police Clerk as submitted by Wilder, seconded by Leukhardt, **VOTE: 3-0-0**

VOCATIONAL COSTS: David Newell Finance Committee outlines both the increase in the Voke School numbers for FY15 and the proposal that Ashfield purchase the gas for the Voke Transportation for the four Towns stating that the proposal should save Ashfield and the other Towns on Transportation costs as the Town can purchase the fuel cheaper than Transportation Contractor can. **(Document 3)** Informational packet from Tom Poissant regarding gas /diesel pumps for discussion of Vocational School Fuel issue. **(Document 4)**

Quite a lengthy discussion takes place between the Finance Committee and the Select Board regarding Ashfield purchasing the fuel for the Voke buses vs going with the contracted price with Kuzmescus. After the discussion Carter saying in the interests of fostering cooperation with the other Towns and to save whatever money we can I move **MOTION:** Instruct David Newell that we're willing to have Ashfield provide the gas/diesel for the 4 Town Voke transportation, seconded by Coler. **VOTE:** 3-0-0

The Enrollment for Voke Education seems to be higher this year as current we have 6 applications for Tech and 4 applications for Smith Voke.

School Debt Exclusion question discussion regarding long range planning, repairs to Mohawk and Sanderson.

Next SB/FC meeting will be April 14, 2014 at 7:00 PM

Carter signs the Agreement by and between the Town of Ashfield and Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA)**(Document 6)**

Ted Murray Finance Committee explains he has drafted an elevator lift letter to the legislators urging a change in inspection schedules for lifts. Chair Carter reads the letter **(Document 7)**

MOTION: Leukhardt makes a motion to sign the letter to the legislators regarding lift inspections, seconded by Coler. **VOTE: 3-0-0**

Coler makes a motion to adjourn at 10:43 P.M.

Adjourned 10:43 P.M.

Document List

1. Agenda 3-31-2014
2. Adjusted Police Budget, Police Clerk job Description
3. Vocational School info. Packet
4. Gas/Diesel fuel pump information
5. Police Dept. revised budget for FY15
6. Agreement by and between the Town of Ashfield and Franklin County Regional Housing And Redevelopment Authority (HRA)
7. Letter to legislators regarding lift inspections
- 8.

Note: These minutes were discussed, amended, and approved at the Select Board meeting dated 4/22/2014 and filed in the folder of the actual date of the said minutes

Approved as drafted 4/22/2014 2-1-0