

SELECT BOARD MINUTES December 9, 2009

Present: Ted Murray, Tom Ulrich and Dave DeHerdt

Approximately 40 residents were present

Meeting called to order 7:00p.m.

Minutes

Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the open meeting minutes of December 2, 2009. Vote was unanimous. Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the executive session minutes of December 2, 2009. Vote was unanimous.

Tax Classification Hearing

The tax classification hearing opened at 7:05 pm. Board of Assessor member, Rick Chandler and Assessor's Clerk, Faye Whitney were also present. Discussion occurred on the merits of a single tax rate vs. a split tax rate. Dave asked about the PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) program. The PILOT program is voluntary. The state is backing off of the PILOT program. Motion was made and seconded to have a single tax rate for FY2011. The vote was unanimous. The hearing closed at 7:20 pm.

Community Development Strategy Hearing

The community development strategy hearing opened at 7:20 pm. Discussion occurred on the list of projects. One project that needs to be added is handicap access at Belding Park. Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the Community Development Strategy as amended. Vote was unanimous.

Special Town Meeting

Ted and Dave will be meeting with the finance committee Thursday at 7 pm to discuss the special town meeting warrant. The Board reviewed the articles as proposed.

Liaison Reports

Police - Ted took custody of a gun that had been given to John Svoboda. The gun was worth more than \$50 and was therefore returned to the police station. Ted met with the police department on Monday. Ted will work on resolving the issue of the John's personal property that needs to be returned.

Discussion occurred regarding the state of the current policies and procedures. Dave said that the Board should review them and make changes as needed. Dave will work on that. The Board has not decided how to move forward with department leadership.

Highway – The last storm got a little bit ahead of the highway crew, but they got caught up.

Emergency Management Director – The emergency action plan for the dam was given to the Board for review. They will discuss it at the January 6 meeting and then it will be sent to the state.

Resignation

Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the resignation of John Svoboda as Chief and member of the Ashfield police department. Vote was unanimous.

Board of Assessors

Discussion occurred regarding filling the vacancy on the Board of Assessors due to the resignation of Emma Svoboda. Motion was made, and seconded, to appoint Mary Quigley to fill the unexpired term on the Board of Assessors. Vote was unanimous.

Public Forum

Discussion occurred regarding the future of the police department.

Motion was made, and seconded, to go into executive session per MGL Chapter 39, S. 23B to discuss pending litigation and to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel. The Board will not reconvene in open session. Roll call vote: Ted, aye; Tom, aye; Dave, aye.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Administrator

Community Development Strategy Hearing
Attendees
December 9, 2009

Dave DeHerdt
Tom Ulrich
Ted Murray
Faye Whitney
Rick Chandler
Doug Field
Mary Quigley
Sandy Lilly
Steve Pollen
Bev LaBelle
David King
Tiertza-Leah Schwartz
Steve Greenman
Suzanne Corbett
Amelia Maloney
Ricki Carroll
Betty Stewart
Karen Sullivan
Paulette Leukhardt
Mollie Babize