

SELECT BOARD MINUTES March 11, 2010

Present: Ted Murray (TM), Chair, David DeHerdt (DD)

Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm.

School Voting

Also present were Superintendent Michael Buoniconti, Sanderson Principal Budge Litchfield, PTO representative Kim Biagini, Plainfield School Committee member Heather Davis, Ashfield School Committee members Jennifer Williams and Karen Sullivan, and Ashfield Interim Police Chief John Cotton. Discussion occurred regarding implementing procedures to allow voting to occur at Sanderson while still ensuring student safety. A draft set of guidelines was presented for discussion. Interim Chief Cotton will work with Principal Litchfield to further refine and implement the guidelines.

Minutes

Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the open session minutes of February 10, 2010 as submitted. Vote was unanimous. Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the open session minutes of February 23, 2010 as submitted. Vote was unanimous. Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the open session minutes of February 24, 2010 as submitted. Vote was unanimous. Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the open session minutes of February 25, 2010 as submitted. Vote was unanimous.

Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the executive session minutes of February 25, 2010 as submitted. Vote was unanimous. The Board decided that since the contract for the Interim Police Chief had been executed that these minutes could now be considered public record.

Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the open session minutes of March 1, 2010 as submitted. Vote was unanimous.

Liaison Reports

Police – The Board officially welcomed John Cotton to his new role as Interim Chief. Ted reported that Chief Cotton did an inspection of all the inventory. He discovered that the Taurus tires were mismatched and recommended that when the snow tires come off in the spring that a new matched set be installed. The Explorer's tires are bald, so the vehicle will not be used until a new set can be purchased. Chief Cotton also installed a cross-cut shredder for the department. The Board will host a welcome reception for Chief Cotton at town hall on March 21 from 4 pm to 5 pm.

Emergency Management – Ted reported that a one page insert will be put in the town report telling residents proper procedures to take in the event of an emergency. Emergency Management Director Doug Field and Fire Chief Del Haskins are looking into obtaining an emergency generator to serve both the fire station and town hall in the event of a power outage.

Town Hall – The town hall building committee will be meeting March 20 at 10 am.

Caucus

Discussion occurred regarding voting at caucus and nomination papers. It was emphasized that anyone who had an interest in taking out nomination papers that they need to contact Maryellen Cranston.

Police Chief Search Committee

The police chief search committee presented the following questions to the Board:

1. Do they have a budget to work with? If they will have a budget, will it be a town meeting warrant article?
2. Should the position be advertised as full-time or part-time?
3. Should the position be a strong or weak chief?
4. Based on the feedback the committee has received from other towns, they may not have a candidate by July 1. What would happen if that occurs? One possible solution is to extend the interim chief's contract.

Resignation

Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the resignation of Sean Skalski from the Ashfield Police Department. Vote was unanimous.

Park and Senior Center Budgets for FY 2011

Finance Committee: Carl Satterfield, Tom Carter, and Mary Link

The budget hearing session was called to order at 8:12 pm.

School committee member Jennifer Williams gave a brief update on the school budget.

Park commissioner Nina Coler presented the proposed park budgets showing the impact of a five and ten percent cut. The question was asked if the highway department could help with some of the ground work at the park. Everyone agreed that the restoration funds would not be used at this time to help balance the general budget.

Senior Center director Jamie Godfrey presented the senior center assessment which represents a 7% decrease. Discussion occurred about how the budget reflects the strategic plan which was discussed at a previous meeting.

Motion was made, and seconded, to go into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy regarding litigation. The board will not reconvene in open meeting. Roll call vote: Dave, yes; Ted, yes.

Meeting adjourned at 9:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Town Administrator