

SELECT BOARD MINUTES March 25, 2010

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

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm.

Sealed Bids

Also present was Collector/Assistant Treasurer, Laura Blakesley. One bid was received for Map 3, Lot 103 on Old Stage Road. The amount of \$10,500 was submitted by Heather and Bruce Davis. Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the bid for the lot as received. Vote in favor was unanimous.

The other property for which no bids were received will remain with the town for the time being.

Collector Fees

Motion was made, and seconded, to authorize the collector to charge the water district \$1000 for her services. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Minutes

Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the open session minutes of March 23 as printed. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Liaison Reports

Police and Fire – *Ted and Del Haskins will attend a meeting regarding the Shelburne Dispatch Center on Monday, March 29.*

Town Hall – The town hall building committee met on March 20 and had a walk through the building. There is a 2001 space planning committee report that will need to be located and reviewed. The next meeting is March 31.

Mail

A copy of a letter to the Board of Assessors was received from a resident regarding an appeal of his property assessment.

Procedures to follow if you receive an incorrectly addressed form from the US Census Bureau will be put in the next edition of the Ashfield News.

Ethics Training

Discussion occurred as to what should happen regarding town officials and employees who do not comply with the ethics training requirement. The Board discussed sending a letter to the Ethics Commission to ask them their opinion.

Senior Center Strategic Plan

Motion was made, and seconded, to endorse the Senior Center's Strategic Plan. Vote in favor was unanimous. Discussion occurred regarding establishing a local council on aging task force. Potential candidates will be contacted to gauge their willingness to serve. The finance committee will appoint a member to assist with the funding of the strategic plan.

Transfer Station

Motion was made, and seconded, to increase the fee for a transfer station permit to \$40. Vote in favor was unanimous. Discussion occurred regarding possible ways to increase enforcement and raise additional revenue.

Town Hall Use

Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the use of town hall on April 29 for David Kulp to make a presentation on the proposed warrant article regarding the fiber-optic network. There is no charge for this use. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Budget Discussion

Also present were members of the finance committee: Carl Satterfield, Tom Carter, Poppy Doyle, Janet Rogers and Mary Link.

Rick Chandler, Mary Quigley and Faye Whitney from the assessors presented their budget. Most of their budget is in the form of contractual expenses. Discussion occurred regarding excess overlay. This account is as low as it can go. It will not be available to help fund the FY11 budget.

Marcine Eisenberg and Bonnie Coleman discussed the library budget. There is a discrepancy regarding the amount of money in the library revolving funds. Handicapped accessibility remains an issue because of their non-functioning lift. The question was raised if dog fund money should be going to the library.

Discussion occurred regarding various ways to reduce the budget deficit. Dave discussed eliminating the sergeant position by changing to a patrol officer rank. By paying an hourly rate, we could achieve savings that could help fund the police chief line item. Discussion occurred regarding changing

the health insurance contribution rate to some level from the minimum of 50% to the current 75%. Discussion occurred regarding using \$13,000 from the Belding Park Restoration funds.

Motion was made, and seconded, to put the purchase of a truck and plow for the highway department for \$145,000 on a debt exclusion question for town meeting and the local election ballot. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 10:26 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Town Administrator*