

SELECT BOARD MINUTES April 8, 2010

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

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

Warrants

Warrants – Warrant #18 was signed the weekend of February 27. (Vendor – \$20,706.88 and Payroll – \$18,501.04) Warrant #19 was signed the weekend of March 13. (Vendor – \$47,949.94 and Payroll – \$19,950.41) Warrant #20 was signed the weekend of March 27. (Vendor – \$434,266.16 and Payroll – \$18,522.98) Warrant #21 was signed the weekend of April 10. (Vendor – \$69,138.83 and Payroll – \$20,172.02)

Minutes

Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the open session minutes of April 1 as written. Vote in favor was unanimous. Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the executive session minutes of April 1. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Old Business

Family Medical Leave Policy – The Board discussed using the fiscal year to count the 12 weeks that an employee can be put on Family Medical Leave. Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the Family Medical Leave Policy as presented. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Chapter 90 – The state certified Ashfield's Chapter 90 money for FY11 as \$233,349.

New Business

911 Feasibility Study – Ted signed a letter of support for the COG to apply for grant funding to study the feasibility of combining 911 services in Franklin County.

Emergency Manager – Discussion occurred regarding the mechanism for the town to appoint a member of the select board as emergency management director. Motion was made, and seconded to place an article on the town meeting warrant to allow the select board to appoint a member as emergency management director, contingent on clearance by the ethics commission. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Fuel Bids – The Board signed the request to the COG to join with other towns to bid fuel oil, gas and diesel.

School Stabilization – Motion was made, and seconded, to place an article on the town meeting warrant to allow the school to establish a capital stabilization account. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Budget Discussion

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

Water Commissioner, Duncan Colter discussed the water district. The Board discussed the fact that they do not have control over this budget. They decided to not have them come in for future budget discussions.

Sewer Commissioners Mary Fitz-Gibbon, Nancy Hoff and Todd Olanyk discussed their budget with the Board. Extensive discussion occurred regarding their desire to give a pay increase to their employees when no other town employee was receiving any kind of an increase for the FY11 fiscal year.

Discussion occurred regarding staffing of the police department and what a potential budget for them may look like. Discussion occurred regarding 2 major options for reducing the deficit by means of long-term structural changes. These changes would alleviate financial pressures not only this year but in years to come:

1. A reduction in force, either thru layoff and/or retirement.
2. A reduction in the amount that the town contributes to health insurance.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Town Administrator