

SELECT BOARD MINUTES June 2, 2010

Present: Dave DeHerd, Doug Field, Norm Russell

Meeting called to order at 7:04 pm.

Warrants

Warrant #25 was signed the weekend of June 5 authorizing payment. (Vendor - \$28,639.80 and Payroll - \$18,133.31)

Minutes

Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the open session minutes of the morning of May 20. Vote in favor was unanimous. Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the open session minutes of the night of May 20 as amended (addition of finance committee members; correction on police chief search committee members; discussion of Knox box keys; access codes were changed, not the alarm). Vote in favor was unanimous. Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the executive session minutes of May 20. Vote in favor was unanimous. Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the open session minutes of May 27. Vote was unanimous.

Appointments

Town Web Site Committee – Also present were Web Site committee members Juliet Jacobson, David Kulp and Charlie Heath. Discussion occurred regarding aspects of the proposed town web site such as the drop down menu, posting agendas and calendar and email addresses. It was decided that each department can update its own information. Motion was made, and seconded, to allow the web site to go live. Vote was unanimous.

Since David Kulp was present, the Board discussed with him his interest in being the town's representative on the Wired West governing board. Motion was made, and seconded, to appoint David Kulp as Ashfield's primary representative to the Wired West governing Board. An alternate representative will be appointed later. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Animal Control – Also present was animal control officer Warren Kirkpatrick. Discussion occurred regarding issues impacting animal control issues in town such as the use of the revolving fund, the housing of animals and how much is needed going forward. Dave will ask the town administrator how much is in the fund now and how much would be in the fund if everyone paid on time.

Windmill

Discussion occurred regarding the issue of windmills in town. There is currently a bill before the legislature that would put control of the issue with the state and not the towns. The town should maintain some rights in this issue. Should the Board write a letter to the state legislature? Norm will draft a letter to be discussed next week. Clear Sky is coming before the Board on June 16 to discuss a potential site in town for windmills.

Liaison Reports

Emergency Services – The police and fire departments will share the ATV. During the winter months, the ATV trailer was damaged. There will be an insurance claim for this damage. Chief Cotton has been asked to submit a list of recommended appointments for the next meeting.

The town administrator has been asked to provide a list of position appointments so each Board member can have time to talk to the individuals to see if they want to be reappointed. The Board is not voting on a slate this year.

During the Memorial Day parade, Chief Cotton was the only police officer present. He had been given the wrong time for the parade.

The police department is getting a new key for the safe.

Highway – The department is being restructured. John LaBelle will be laid off. All employees will have the same pay rate except the mechanic. There will be no foreman's pay or position. Tom Poissant has requested that the Board should accept the following low bids from the FRCOG for material:

3/4 inch washed stone delivered – Delta Sand and Gravel - \$14.25/ton
1/2 inch washed stone delivered – Delta Sand and Gravel - \$14.80/ton
Rip Rap delivered – Trew Stone Corporation - \$19.25/ton
Stone seal (10% rubber) – All State Asphalt – \$2.70/sq yard
Bituminous concrete (applied in place) – Warner Brothers - \$62.75/ton

Motion was made, and seconded, to accept the lowest bids from the FRCOG as presented. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Tom has requested to hold on to the money in the winter roads account to buy one more load of salt. Doug will ask the town administrator if this is a problem.

Emergency Manager – The emergency plan for the dam was returned. There were some items which will need to get addressed. The emergency manager will make the necessary changes.

Town Hall/committee – Norm will meet with the town hall employees before June 30. The town hall committee has developed a plan to address the accessibility issues. Discussion occurred at the last meeting about moving the police department to the highway garage and moving some town hall employees over to that location.

Senior Center - Doug met with Jamie Godfrey from the Senior Center. The town will need a representative on the task force committee. The local Senior Center task force will be seeking support from the current Board next week.

Old Business

FRCOG Health Services Contract – Motion was made, and seconded, to sign the contract with the FRCOG for health services. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Public Records Oath – Dave felt that no vote was required of the Board for the custodian of public records to enforce the law. Prior to the election, people will need to be reminded to come in and take the oath. Dave would like this completed by June 12.

Email Review – Norm and Doug will review the forensically recovered emails to see if there are any that should not be public records.

Police Patch – The Board liked the design for the new police patch.

Trust Funds – Dave commented that he was upset that he was not made aware of how trust funds have been handled by past select boards. The Board relies on the town administrator to make sure they are fully informed before making decisions.

Special Town Meeting Warrant

Discussion occurred regarding potential warrant items for a June 30 special town meeting at Sanderson Academy. Ice Storm expenses are one item. Discussion occurred as to whether the street light issue can be addressed in the current fiscal year. This will be put on the agenda for next week.

Use of Town Counsel

The Board discussed procedures for boards and committees to contact Town Counsel with questions. The Board decided that in the future all requests to contact Town Counsel need to come before the entire Board to be discussed. Dave will be asking the town administrator to send out a letter stating this policy.

Summer Schedule

After June 30, the Board will go on a summer schedule.

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: Norm, yes; Doug, yes; Dave, yes.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Town Administrator