

SELECT BOARD MINUTES June 9, 2010

Present: Dave DeHerdt, Doug Field, Norm Russell

Meeting called to order at 7:02 pm.

Minutes

Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the open session minutes of June 2. Vote in favor was unanimous. Discussion occurred regarding clarifying the use of town council. If it is not an emergency, a board/committee or department head needs to come before the full board to request the use of town council. If it is an emergency, the board/committee or department head can get the approval from their select board liaison who will then inform the board at the next meeting. A letter explaining the policy will be sent to the board/committees and department heads.

Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the executive session minutes of June 2. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Appointments

Senior Center Task Force – Also present was task force members Janice Howes. Discussion occurred regarding the clarification of the responsibilities of the Task Force and the local Council on Aging. The task force members are willing to serve on the task force, but not the Council on Aging. The task force will come up with a plan to implement the senior center's strategic vision. The select board has granted the authority to the task force to find individuals for a consortium group to represent Ashfield at the senior center. The task force and consortium group will work to define duties of the council on aging in order to find individuals to serve.

There is not enough money in the Local COA account to cover the inspection of the van, which has already taken place, as well as their additional expenses. Janice will submit the bills to the town administrator to be put on the June 30 special town meeting warrant.

Elmer's Street Closing – Nan Parati submitted a request to the Board to close Norton Hill on August 14 to hold a celebration of the 175th anniversary of the building that Elmer's resides in. Chief John Cotton said that the on duty officer can handle the additional activity. There is no need for additional coverage. Motion was made, and seconded, to close Norton Hill on August 14 from 4 pm – 10 pm. Vote in favor was unanimous.

Police Chief John Cotton – Chief Cotton signed off on the Clear Sky Energy application for the use of town hall on June 17. He also agreed to have an officer posted at the intersection of 116 and 112 for the Tour of the Hilltowns bike race on July 24.

The Board discussed with Chief Cotton his recommendations for reappointment of the two remaining police officers. Chief Cotton said that Jerek Konopko is a good officer. He is willing to learn, is polite and professional.

Chief Cotton said that Sgt. Nunez is a different story. She has good knowledge of the laws, court, computer systems, forms, grant opportunities, Sanderson safety and clerical procedures. He has found though that she is difficult to supervise. She questions his authority and has difficulty following thru on assigned tasks. He gave several examples, one of which was that she gave him the wrong time for the start of the Memorial Day parade. When asked what was consuming her time, Chief Cotton indicated that it is difficult to tell from her logs. He felt that performing security checks were not as important as some of her other duties. He stated that he would not recommend her for reappointment.

Liaison Reports

Emergency Services - Discussion occurred regarding who is the appointing authority for the fire department. Dave will ask the town administrator for the list of laws the town has accepted.

Town Hall – Discussion occurred regarding who should meet with the town hall employees. It was stated that it should be the select board liaison. Discussion occurred on changing the efficiencies of town hall to have it open to the public 5 days a week. One solution would be to use volunteers. There was also the desire expressed to begin offering hunting and fishing licenses again.

Town Hall Committee – The committee is examining the possibility of converting part of the highway garage to use for the police department.

Police Chief Search Committee – The job description is finished. The ad will be included on the web site.

FRCOG – The FRCOG has asked for the Municipal Services Survey to be completed. This gives them information for what the towns are looking for. The town administrator will be asked to put out notice of the survey to all boards.

Old Business

The Board will try to find individuals to get more involved in the implementation of the senior center strategic plan.

The town administrator will be asked to follow up on a legal opinion request of town counsel for the select board to reorganize town departments and budget decisions.

Windmill Siting Letter

Discussion occurred regarding the need of the letter to focus on having local control of the process. Motion was made, and seconded, to send the letter to Stan Rosenberg, Denis Guyer and Steve Kulik. The town administrator will put the letter on town letterhead.

Special Town Meeting

Discussion occurred on the need for the list of accounts from the town administrator as to where the money could come from to pay for ice storm damages. A question also occurred as to why there is \$50,000 showing in this account on the expense reports.

Discussion occurred on what if any street lights to keep on. The Board agreed to keep on the three lights on Spruce Corner, the light at the beach, the light at town hall and to turn the rest off. The town administrator will be asked to tell the Board what this would cost.

The Board discussed possible individuals to moderate the June 30 special town meeting. Phil Pless and Karen Sullivan were two names suggested. The Board will decide at the next meeting.

Regional Police Study

The Board discussed participating in a regional police force study that would be conducted by the FRCOG. Motion was made, but not seconded, to allow the FRCOG to continue the study of having a regional police force. The motion failed due to the lack of a second.

Records

The Board discussed how far back to begin enforcement of MGL chapter 66, section 14. The Board decided to begin enforcement from May 1, 2007 to the present. Discussion also occurred regarding the submission of public records. Dave emphasized that email records will be stored electronically in the PDF file format. The town administrator will send clarification of this to boards/committees and department heads.

NIMS

Doug reviewed with the Board the new requirements regarding who will need to take the NIMS trainings. All training needs to be completed by September 30. The town will lose federal funding opportunities if this is not done.

Committee Appointment

Motion was made, and seconded, to appoint Paullette Leukhardt to the town website committee. Vote was unanimous.

Signatures/Use of Town Hall

The Board signed approval for the Tour of the Hilltowns bike race on July 24.

The Board discussed the Clear Sky application to use town hall to hold an informational meeting on wind energy on June 17. The Board emphasized that if Buz Eisenberg moderates this meeting that he needs to disclose that it is not a town sanctioned meeting. Motion was made, and seconded, to approve the Clear Sky application to use town hall on June 17. Discussion occurred on requiring Clear Sky to pay a \$100 security deposit, 1 hour of custodian time and the fee listed on the fee schedule for a non-Ashfield entity. Vote was unanimous.

Public Forum

During the public forum time, resident Richard Masse spoke with the Board regarding what he felt were violations of the special permit that was issued for the stone quarry next to his property. After discussion regarding who has jurisdiction for enforcement, Dave said that he would talk to building inspector, Jim Hawkins, to determine what his position is. The town administrator will call Mr. Masse if we have any further information.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Town Administrator