

**Select Board Minutes**  
**May 16, 2012**

6:45 p.m. WMECO pole hearing: Pleasant St., request from WMECO for replacement of 4 new poles.

**Present:** Doug Field, Poullette Leukhardt, Ron Coler, Mary Fitz-Gibbon, and WMECO David Silleway

David Silleway explained that the new poles will provide better service from 116 Plainfield Rd. to Pleasant St. The new poles can be fed either from Ashfield or Plainfield. Poles are 40ft (6 1/2 ft in the ground), single phase. Cutting will involve a few small trees but no big rock maples are to be removed. Poullette suggested the tree committee be notified. A motion was made by Poullette, seconded by Ron, and passed, to notify the Tree Committee about this pending action and for future pole hearings.

**Pole Hearing closed at 6:57 p.m.**

Select Board meeting called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Select Board members Doug Field Chair, Poullette Leukhardt, Ron Coler  
Interim Executive Administrator Mary Fitz-Gibbon

**APPOINTMENTS:**

VTEC, Contract for new fire truck: Doug reported that Town Counsel has read and approved the contract. Doug explained some of the details of the contract and Fire Chief Del Haskins expressed support for the contract. There was a question from the audience as to whether or not the May 5, 2012 election ballot question on the debt exclusion for the truck purchase passed or not because it fell short of 2/3rds vote. Doug explained that majority vote was required on the ballot question and that the debt exclusion vote did receive the majority vote needed. Poullette made a motion to sign the contract, it was seconded by Ron and the motion passed. Two original contracts were signed, one for VTEC and one for the Town.

Brian Clark, Green Committee: The Select Board reviewed the contract for the Green Communities grant. Brian presented a quick overview of the five different documents that needed to be signed by the Board. He explained that a separate account will need to be set up for the monies to be received from the State. Lighting contracts will be signed with new effective dates. The first installment will be received in FY13, sometime after 7/1/12.

Brendan Burns, Ashfield resident, requested approval for Green River Ambrosia to, for the second year, participate in the Ashfield Farmers Market. Motion was made that, pending payment of a \$25.00 fee and submission of a copy of the current Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission Farmer-Winery License, the request be considered approved. The motion was seconded and passed.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Doug Field presented the EMD/MEMA, Emergency storage unit grant: \$ 2,000 as a 50/50 match. Doug explained that the Town's match would be in the form of an in-kind donation based on hours worked during the last declared emergency. After a motion to approve, the motion having been seconded and passed, two Select Board members signed as Select Board members and one, Doug Field, signed as EMD.

Mass. Selectmen's Association June meeting: Paullette and Ron both will attend and each will register on-line.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

FRCOG Building Inspection Program discussion, letters and member reports:

Paullette Leukhardt began the discussion by saying that she had been exchanging emails with Jim Hawkins at the Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program (FCCIP) and that as a result she had picked up, from the Building Inspection Program office, some documents including a set of blueprints for the Ashfield House. She reported that the documents were in her possession and that she would bring them to Town Hall at some point. She indicated that she would put what she had in a binder that would be available for reference while the Town worked through issues at the Ashfield House.

Paullette also mentioned that they (FCCIP) had even given her an old copy of paperwork from when Suzanne Corbett owned the Ashfield House.

On another matter, Paullette said she was concerned that when people apply for a permit on-line it appears that they can do so without putting in a date and that she is not comfortable with that and would like the FCCIP to change their software so that an individual cannot submit the application until a date is entered.

Ron discussed his visits with 10-12 people in regards to the program. He stated that 80-85 % of those he spoke with expressed concern about withdrawing from the program. He reported that some feel it needs improvement but nevertheless feel strongly about staying in. Paullette expressed concern with the new contract saying that she would like to see 30 days rather than 90 days to withdraw. Ron said he will talk with Jim Hawkins, FRCOG BIP, to see if a new contract, reflecting recent changes in the program, will be forthcoming.

Doug shared comments as well as letters of support for the FRCOG Building Inspector Program from Mike George of George Propane, Phil Pless, realtor and resident, Mary Quigley, resident and building contractor, E.W. Martin, electrician, and Ted Murray, resident.

Minutes for the May 9, 2012 Select Board meeting were approved as corrected.

Paullette read an e-mail from resident Bill Perlman about the availability of minutes posted to the website, as well as Town Counsel's comments on Open Meeting Law requirements as they apply to minutes. While acknowledging the OML requirements, Ron expressed some concern about the 10 day window for the draft form of meeting minutes given time constraints of both volunteers and part-time employees. Paullette suggested that perhaps a volunteer could come in and post minutes to the website.

#### **LIAISON REPORTS:**

Town Hall: Ron had his first meeting with Town Hall staff. He reported that he asked about personnel policies and was informed that the Personnel Board is working on recommendations for updating the policies. He said he is considering being available in Town Hall weekly for public visits and comments. No time is yet set for this purpose.

Highway: Doug stated that most of the FEMA work-project reports have been completed and submitted for reimbursement..

#### **Future meetings:**

Next Select Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 30, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

After a motion to adjourn was seconded and passed the meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.

## Document list for Select Board meeting May 16, 2012

1. VTEC contract for purchase of new fire engine
2. Green Committee Contracts
3. FRCOG Annual Report 2011
4. FRCOG Hazard Mitigation Grant Program assistance offer
5. Notice of MMA Leadership Conference for Selectmen
6. Franklin Hampshire Regional Employment Board Inc.  
Notice of Youth Services Council meeting
7. Town of Ashfield Delinquent Dog list from Town Clerk
8. Town of Ashfield Comparative Revenue Report: FRCOG Building Inspection  
Program permit receipts, from accountant
9. Letters of concern about intention to withdraw from the FRCOG Building  
Inspection program:
  - Mary Quigley of Quigley Builders
  - Philip Pless
  - Mike George of George Propane
  - E.W Martin Electrical
  - Edwin Murray, JR