Town of Ashfield Select Board

Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2014

The Ashfield Select Board meeting was held on Monday, January 6, 2014 at the Ashfield Town Hall. Tom Carter called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. There were 5 audio recorders and 1 video recorder in use during the meeting. There were about 10 audience members in attendance. Previous Select Board meeting was held December 30, 2013 at the Ashfield Town Hall.

Select Board Members: Tom Carter- Chair, Ron Coler- Vice Chair, Paullette Leukhardt
Executive Administrator: Mary Fitz-Gibbon
Assistant Municipal Clerk, Scribe: Lynn Taylor

Carter starts the meeting by giving Coler an overview of the discussion at last week's meeting pertaining to open Police Chief Position and plans on how to move forward.

Carter shares his position on the vacant Police Chief position: Carter is not interested at this time to have a Full-Time Academy trained Officer. He states he has a lot of confidence in Corporal Diane Wilder and her ability to carry out the Interim Acting Police Chief position, as does the entire Police Department.

Coler shares his position on the Vacant Police Chief position: Coler explains that back in 2010 he was in support of a Full-Time Academy Chief, however that was a very different time and different circumstance. Coler informs the Board that he supports the Chief's recomendation that Wilder be appointed. He is an advocate for Wilder she follows the spirit of volunteerism in the Town, she is a woman Officer, and Wilder would be fine as Interim Police Chief. Coler questions Wilder regarding her continued presence out and about in Town, Wilder acknowledges she will continue to be out in Town.

Leukhardt shares her position on the vacant Police Chief position: Leukhardt's feeling is to look for a Full-Time Academy trained Chief, as recommended by Wayne Sampson back in 2010. Leukhardt explains it has nothing to do with Wilder personally just the fact that Wilder is not Full-Time Academy trained. Leukhardt questions if Wilder is appointed will cause issues seeing that back in 2010 we did not promote the Seargent to Acting Police Chief, rather hired John Cotton who was a Full-Time Academy trained Chief. Carter advises this is a different Board.

MOTION: Carter makes the motion (see attached Document 1): I move we appoint Diane Wilder as Interim Acting Police Chief for the Town of Ashfield commencing on 1/7/14 and continuing until 6/30/2014 or until a permanent Police Chief has assumed the position. This appointment is made under the following terms:

1. The appointed position will be for a maximum of 30 HRS per week at a rate of $24.00/HR.
2. The Interim Acting Chief will work closely with the Liaison from the Select Board in regards to all department issues during this period.
3. The Interim Acting Chief will have the authority to engage personnel as needed up to 6 HRS/WK to assist in routine administrative duties, which will allow more patrol time and/or public Police activities. The rate for such shall not exceed $14.00.

Wilder has asked Betty Lesure who has been involved with the department for 27 Yrs. to take on 6Hrs. of Administration duties and Lesure has agreed.

There was a short discussion Carter then called for a vote.
VOTE: Carter-aye, Coler-aye. Leukhardt-opposed passes 2-1-0

Leukhardt made a statement after Motion passes. Saying that since Wilder is very interested in being Police Chief, during this budget process we should do everything we can financially to get her to the Full-Time Academy training. I would like to see her succeed.

MINUTES: Coler makes a motion to accept the minutes of 12/16/2013 as amended with inclusion of document 16, seconded. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye. 3-0-0

Liaison Reports:
--Carter advises the new highway grader should be delivered in about 3 weeks.
--Coler advises he has spoken with Donna MacNicol (Town Counsel) regarding the lake and dam easement with the Nolan's. She should be getting back to him by Wends.
-- Leukhardt advices that there was a structure fire on Briar Hill Friday afternoon, no one was hurt. The new fire truck suffered damage to many of it's valves that froze up at the scene due to the -15 windchill that day. Damage may not be covered under any warranties. The Sherriff's Department and the Red Cross were there to help.

Carter would like to look into funds that may be available if a resident loses their home. We will discuss further at our next meeting.

Coler makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Leukhardt. VOTE: Carter-aye, Coler-aye, Leukhardt-aye. 3-0-0

Adjourned at 7:47 P.M.
Document List
1. Written Motion
2. Agenda
3. Amended minutes of 01/06/2014

Note: These minutes were discussed, amended, and approved at the Select Board meeting dated and filed in the folder of the actual date of the said minutes.