

Town of Ashfield Select Board

Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2014

The Ashfield Select Board meeting was held on Monday, February 10, 2014 at the Ashfield Town Hall. Tom Carter called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. There were 4 audio recorders and 1 video recorder in use during the meeting. There were about 8 audience members in attendance. Previous Select Board meeting was held February 3, 2014 at the Ashfield Town Hall.

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

Payroll Warrant WP14-7 Dated February 10, 2014 (Document 1)

Vendor Warrant W14-17 Dated February 10, 2014 (Document 2)

Board reviews and signs the warrants.

Minutes: Minutes of 01/15/14 and 01/13/14 Moved to next Select Board Meeting

Appointments:

Tom Poissant, Highway: Winter Rds. Tom submits a breakdown of Winter Rds. for FY14 (**Document 3**) As of this Warrant 2/10/2014 Winter Rds. line has a negative balance of - \$10,741.03, with a total of \$20,960.25 worth of materials already purchased that have not yet been invoiced. A general discussion of Winter Roads including how much to transfer at the STM. There was also a discussion about Capital Highway purchases. Tom will either be looking for a new truck at roughly \$170,000 a backhoe roughly \$100,000. At this point not sure which it will be.

Mary Vilbon, Executive Director of Greater Shelburne Falls Area Business Assoc.: Mary did not show up for her appointment due to confusion with the scheduling.

Jody Hall, Smith Road: Town Hall Steeple and proposed ISP: Jody submits Historical Significance letter of Ashfield's Town Hall (**Document 4**) Jody discusses her concerns regarding the antennas that would be mounted to the columns if the Town entered into an agreement with Chris Gray for internet. Her fear is that such antennas would impair the looks of the Steeple when looking at it, the photos taken by Chris do not show a clear picture when the actual panels are mounted there will be lots of shadowing. Tom Carter thanked her for sharing her thoughts and concerns with the Board.

Doug Field, EMD: New fee for Hampshire County Emergency Communication System: Doug submits a list of towns using the Hampshire County system. (**Document 5**) Doug explains to the

Board that Hampshire County is now looking for Ashfield to pay a yearly fee of \$1,042.00 for the purpose of maintaining the towers. The only time Ashfield uses the Hampshire County system is for a Highland Ambulance call the first tone is done on the system then transferred to Shelburne Control. Doug makes the Board aware of his feelings of not paying the fee. Bill Perlman gave the Board an update on the tower in Plainfield that will help with radio issues out in the SW corner of Ashfield. Things are progressing along well. The question was asked if this would help with the Apple Valley radio issues, it was explained that it would not do anything for the Valley area.

Old Business:

Chris Gray Hilltown Networks ISP Proposal and Agreement: **MOVED** Have not received anything back from Town Counsel yet.

Review and Approve March 10, 2014 Special Town Meeting Warrant: **(Document 6)** Board reviews the Special Town Meeting Warrant for March 10, 2014. Leukhardt questions whether Article #8 pertaining to the Boundary line with Sherlyn Scott should be held for the Annual Town meeting where there would be more residents present. There is a discussion and it was agreed to leave on the STM Warrant. Mary will e-mail the Warrant to both Town Counsel and the Finance Committee.

Assessor's resignation (new date) and ballot instruction from the Town Clerk: Assessors resignation letter from Peter Wiitanen Jan 24, 2014. **MOTION:** Carter makes the motion to accept with regret the resignation of Peter Wiitanen from the Board of Assessors, seconded by Leukhardt. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Leukhardt-aye. 2-0-0 **MOTION:** Tom makes a motion to direct the Town Clerk to add this position to caucus , seconded by Paulette. **VOTE:** 2-0-0

FY 15 Budget discussion: A new line needs to be added to the budget worksheet in anticipation of hiring an Energy Manager. A new line for Transfer Station Improvements also needs to be added to the worksheet. Stipends: Leukhardt has put together and submitted a list of present stipends with new figures that show a 2% increase(Document 12). After a discussion it was decided to leave the stipends as they are stipends are not subject the 2 % increase. **MOTION:** Carter makes a motion to leave all stipends on the worksheet as they were in FY 14, except the ACO,raising that one to \$1850.00(an even amount), seconded by Leukhardt. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Leukhardt-aye. 2-0-0

New Business:

DOT Federal Aid Reimbursement Agreement **(Document 10):** Chair needs to sign. **MOTION:** Carter makes a motion to sign the DOT Federal Aid Reimbursement Agreement, seconded by Leukhardt. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Leukhardt-aye. 2-0-0

Energy Manager Grant discussion: **(Document 7)** General discussion of the grant. Carter expresses that he is very hesitant to bring on a new employee but is willing to have it go to Town meeting for the residents to decide. **MOTION:** Leukhardt makes a motion to sign the appropriate papers for the Energy Manager Grant Application, Seconded by Carter. **VOTE:** Carter-aye, Leukhardt-aye. 2-0-0

Carter will not be available for SB meeting on Feb 24 would like to move meeting to Feb 26 will have further discussion next week.

Mail: E-mail from Judy Willis of meeting Feb12, 2014. (Document 8)

E-mail meeting at the FRCOG for SB and Finance Comm. (Document 9)

General discussion pertaining to various Town debts and debt exclusions.

Paullette makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by Tom.

Adjourned at 10:25 P.M.

Document List

1. Payroll Warrant WP14-7 Dated February 10, 2014
2. Vendor Warrant W14-17 Dated February 10, 2014
3. Breakdown of Winter Rds. for FY14 submitted by Tom.
4. Historical Significance of Ashfield's Town Hall
5. List of Towns using the Hampshire County system
6. March 10, 2014 Special Town Meeting Warrant
7. Energy Manager Grant Application
8. E-mail from Judy Willis of meeting Feb12, 2014.
9. E-mail meeting at the FRCOG for SB and Finance Comm.
10. DOT Federal Aid Reimbursement Agreement
11. Agenda 2/10/2014
12. A list of present stipends with new figures that show a 2% increase submitted by Leukhardt.

Note: These minutes were discussed, amended, and approved at the Select Board meeting dated 2/26/2014 and filed in the folder of the actual date of the said minutes.