



Town of Ashland
New Hampshire 03217

TOWN OFFICE
OFFICE (603) 968-4432
FAX (603) 968-3776

TOWN BULLETIN

August 23, 2012
Issue # 69

News from the Town Office

The Sunday morning HEAL 'walk with Paul' continues to bring out new faces as word spreads about this healthy activity which also builds community interaction. Please consider joining the group this Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in the campground parking lot by the Town beach.

A good number of Ashland residents and visitors showed up for the solo performance last Sunday evening in Memorial Park by Jackie Lee. She was a great hit with the audience and is looking forward to returning to Ashland. This marked the last of the Sunday concert series sponsored in part by the Ashland Revitalization Alliance.

The Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday evening discussed a wide range of topics among them the opening of the sealed bids for the replacement of the Fire Station roof. Linda Perry from SFC Engineering, our structural engineer, was in attendance to answer any questions that might have arisen from either the Board or the public. The four base bids ranged from a high of \$316,000 to a low bid of \$90,000. There were some additions and subtractions as respects the testing for asbestos and the removal thereof if found and so it will now be Linda's task to evaluate the bids and offer her opinion. Once the Board has come to a decision on which contractor to select then they will decide where to obtain the funds and will have to complete an 'Emergency Revenue Source Form' which will be submitted to the Department of Revenue Administration. This application must have the agreement of the majority of the Selectmen and the majority of the Budget Committee.

The subject of radios for the Public Works Department (PWD) was resolved after much discussion which started on July 27th with a memo from the Electric Commissioners to the Selectmen offering to pay for upgrades for the PWD radios as monies for them were not included in the PWD 2012 budget. It was implied that the Town was not in compliance with the FCC regulations that go into effect January 1, 2013 where all radio systems operating on a frequency between 150 and 512 Megahertz must employ 'narrowband' emissions. The Town is in compliance with the federal mandate as respects the license but not the hardware. The Town Administrator was directed to check on the validity of one department lending money to another and the legal opinion that came back indicated that such an arrangement would be unlawful. The Selectmen have agreed to support both the Utilities in their pursuit of an Emergency Management Performance Grant from FEMA because the Commissioners cannot sign the grant application only the Board of Selectmen. This grant is on a first come first served basis so there are no guarantees that the Utilities will obtain the grant. According to the Electric Superintendent the monies will come from their Capital Reserves. The radios for the PWD will go in the Town's 2013 budget. The Selectmen also agreed to hold the necessary public hearing after review of the completed application.

The Board signed a letter to be sent to the Premier of Quebec outlining the strong opposition by Ashland residents to the Northern Pass Project.

The Selectmen were presented with Police Contracts from the Towns of Plymouth and Moultonborough to compare with the one used in the past here in Ashland. They are to review these documents and make a decision on August 29th as to which one they wish the Police Department to use.

A motion was made and passed to allow the Chairman to sign the Loan Agreement for the re-financing of the River Street Project which will save the Town \$100,000 over the next seventeen years.

The Town Administrator was directed by the Board to make contact with the Scribner Trustees to set up a meeting with them, the Library Trustees and the Selectmen to discuss a number of library issues.

During the public comments section of the agenda a request was made to the Board that they video tape their 'signing of the manifest' meetings as it is early in the morning and residents either have gone to work or are unable to get to the Town office that early.

Chairman Stewart announced that representatives from Primex were coming to the Selectmen`s work session on September 12th to discuss liability issues at the Town beach. While she indicated that the public were welcome to attend, public comments will not be accepted.

A wide range of topics were discussed at Tuesday morning`s Ashland Revitalization Alliance meeting among them the continued dialogue regarding the possible traffic enhancement at the junctions of routes 132 and 3/25. Three year traffic accident statistics were collected from the Police Department and these will be submitted to the NHDOT Traffic Bureau along with a completed Road Safety Audit application.

Yesterday morning Mardie Burckes-Miller, Professor of Health Education & Director for Eating Disorders Institute at PSU and Sara Patterson, a Dietician at PSU, came to the Town Office to meet with the HEAL Steering Committee to discuss possible collaborative Wellness projects. It was decided that that preliminary plans would be put together for an “Ashland Wellness Festival” to be held in Town in the Fall.

The Ashland Budget Committee will be meeting with the Fire Chief tonight at the Fire Station at 6 pm as part of their committee reviews of Town Departments.

Other Town News

The 5th Annual Circle Triathlon scheduled for September 2nd will be hosted again by Riveredge Marina and Squam River Landing. The HEAL Steering Committee are hoping to have a booth at the Marina to inform folks about the Healthy Eating and Active Living opportunities that exist in our community.

Meetings & events scheduled for the week commencing August 27, 2012

Monday August 27th

Economic Development planning meeting
Local & State officials
Ashland Fire Department
9 Main Street
8:30 am

Tuesday August 28th

Ashland Electric Commissioners
Utility Office
6 Collins Street
7 pm

Wednesday August 29th

Ashland Capital Improvement Program Committee
Ashland Town Office
20 Highland Street
7 pm

Thursday August 30th

Ashland HEAL Asset Inventory meeting
Ashland Historic Building
Corner of School Street & Education Drive
8 am to 10 am

Important Telephone Numbers

Town Office hours: Mon. Tues. Wed. & Fri. 8am-4pm; Thursday 8am-5pm
Phone (603) 968-4432

Board of Selectmen: Chairman Jeanette Stewart Phone (603) 968-7240
Vice Chair Dan Golden Phone(603) 968-3484
Phil Preston Phone (603) 968-7959

Police Department Phone (603) 968-4000
Fire Department -NON EMERGENCY- Phone (603) 968-7772
Public Works Department Phone (603) 968-3166

Utility Department hours: 8am-4pm Mon-Fri.
Electric Phone (603) 968-3083

Water & Sewer Phone (603) 968-4002
Parks & Recreation Department Phone (603) 968-9209
Health & Welfare Department Phone (603) 968-4432

Welfare hours: 5:30-7:30pm Thursday.

Transfer Station hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 12-4pm;
Saturday 8am-4pm. Phone (603) 968-9032

Building Inspector hours: Thursday 3:30-5pm Phone (603) 968-4432

Library hours: Mon, Tuesday, Thursday 1-7pm; Friday & Saturday 10am-2pm. Closed: Wednesday & Sunday. Phone (603) 968-7928
Ashland Food Pantry hours: Thurs.12-6 pm; Fri. 12-6 pm; Sat.10 am-2 pm
Closed: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday. Phone (603) 968-9698

Please remember the Town website at www.ashland.nh.gov should be consulted when looking for specific information about the Town.
This newsletter helps the Town Office share information and establish a direct connection with our audience, the residents (and taxpayers) of Ashland who are unable to view our website or attend Selectmen meetings. We try to keep them informed and remind them of the many ways their local government is working to improve their quality of life.

Paul C. Branscombe,
Town Administrator