

1 **ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**
2 **MONDAY, MAY 1, 2017**
3 **ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
4 **6:30 PM**

5
6 Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with a roll call. Chairman Fran Newton,
7 Selectmen Leigh Sharps, Casey Barney, Tejasinha Sivalingam and Harold Lamos; present. Others
8 Present: Town Administrator Charles Smith and Administrative Assistant Wendy Smith.

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10 **PUBLIC COMMENT**

- 11 • Ashland Town Clerk Pat Tucker read a statement regarding having a special election to replace
12 District 9 State Representative, Jeff Shackett, who resigned.
- 13 • Mardean Badger read statement regarding Board of Selectmen Operational Guidelines and
14 Handbook.
- 15 • Steve Darrow of Grafton, State Representative from District 17, introduced himself and said he
16 would support decision board makes on special election.
- 17 • George Hacker, Mandy Gennaro, Susan Wei, and Phil Preston of Ashland; and Joyce Weston,
18 Henry Ager, and Bill Bolton of Plymouth spoke in support of having a special election.

19
20 **MINUTES**

21 April 17, 2017- Chairman Newton motioned to approve as amended, Selectman Sivalingam seconded.
22 All in favor.

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24 **CONSENT AGENDA**

25 Board approved signing of General Fund Manifest, Payroll Manifest, and Busky’s Auto Junkyard
26 application.

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28 **DEPARTMENT HEADS**

- 29 • **Summer Camp:** Parks and Recreation Director Ann Barney, requested increasing summer
30 camp from six weeks to seven weeks. This would increase revenue, but existing budget is for
31 a six week camp. Selectman Sivalingam motioned to table Parks and Rec. request until he
32 received further information. Chairman Newton stated she wanted to hear more. Ms. Barney
33 said that they would like to start the sign-up process and need to hire people so delaying would
34 not be helpful. Selectman Lamos asked about profit ratio and Ms. Barney answered that her
35 estimates are conservative and that last year they went under budget. Chairman Newton asked
36 if there was a second to table. Selectman Lamos seconded. Sivalingam and Lamos for, Newton
37 and Sharps against, Barney abstained. Motion failed. Chairman Newton motioned to approve
38 extending the camp for a week. Selectman Sharps seconded. Lamos opposed, Barney and
39 Sivalingam abstained, Newton and Sharps voted for, motion passed. Selectman Sivalingam
40 would like the passing of the motion investigated.
- 41 • **Booster Club stove replacement:** Ms. Barney stated that the stove will be removed this
42 Thursday by the Common Man Restaurant. Board asked TA Smith to write a thank you letter
43 to the Common Man. Ms. Barney is looking into getting a regular stove to replace the removed
44 one. Ms. Barney said everything would be done for under \$800.
- 45 • **Bathhouse roof at campground:** Ms. Barney received estimates to replace failing roof with a
46 metal roof. The lowest bid was \$3,465. Selectman Sivalingam motioned to table in order to

1 get more information. No one seconded. Chairman Newton motioned to replace roof with
2 \$3,465 from the General Government Buildings Repair line. Sharps seconded. Newton, Sharps,
3 and Lamos voted for. Barney and Sivalingam abstained. Motion passed.

- 4 • **Public Works and the LRPC Road Surface Management System (RSMS) project:**
5 Department of Public Works Director, Tim Paquette spoke about the town wide project and his
6 discussion with LRPC Executive Director Jeff Hayes. Project will be beneficial to the town and
7 will assist in estimating road costs more accurately and provide a long-term plan for all the
8 roads. Total cost of agreement is \$7,500 and would be paid in two payments. Further discussion
9 followed regarding Thompson and Smith Hill engineering plan, Highland Street project, and
10 aspects of road improvements. Chair Newton motioned to approve RSMS project. Sharps
11 seconded. Selectmen Newton, Sharps, Casey and Lamos in favor and Sivalingam opposed. TA
12 Smith will sign agreement and send to LRPC.
- 13 • **Chip sealing of north side of Ashland Road:** DPW Director Paquette received quote for
14 \$98,342.80 for chip sealing, which would be good for road preservation and should last around
15 six years. Shim and overlay would last longer but is about twice the cost. Selectman Sivalingam
16 motioned to table to get more information. Chairman Newton stated that this is a follow up
17 from prior Board discussions. Lamos seconded and requested Mr. Paquette get a bid from at
18 least three companies. Mr. Paquette stated that the other closest company is in NY. Sivalingam
19 motioned to table, rest of board opposed to tabling. Selectman Sharps motioned to approve
20 \$98,342.80 for chip sealing. Chairman Newton seconded. Sivalingam abstained, Lamos
21 opposed, rest in favor. Motion passed.

22 23 **OLD BUSINESS**

24 TA Smith read letter to Levi Bradley from the town regarding no opposition to a distillery business
25 operating in Ashland. Selectman Sivalingam motioned to sign the letter as written. Lamos seconded,
26 all in favor.

27 28 **NEW BUSINESS**

- 29 • **Ashland Historical Society request to remove two trees at the Whipple House:** Chairman
30 Newton read letter from President of the Ashland Historical Society, David Ruell, regarding
31 tree removal, installation of fan, and repairing railing around stairway. Selectman Sivalingam
32 motioned to approve fan and railing repair. Lamos seconded, all in favor. Discussion followed
33 regarding tree removal and possibility of maintaining the healthier tree instead of removing it.
34 Selectman Lamos motioned to approve tree removal, Sharps seconded. Selectman Sivalingam
35 concerned with removing trees that could be maintained. Chairman Newton amended motion
36 to approve removal of rotted tree and get more information on possibly maintaining healthier
37 tree. Sharps seconded. Selectman Barney brought up that if both trees are to be removed they
38 should be done at the same time. All in favor of amended motion.
- 39 • **Building Inspector contract:** Selectman Sivalingam had concerns with multiple year contracts
40 and would like to change it to be a one year contract. Sivalingam motioned to approve one year
41 contract. Lamos seconded. All in favor except Sharps.
- 42 • **Board of Selectmen Operational Guideline & Handbook:** Selectman Sivalingam started out
43 with page 8, section M of the handbook which deals with disqualification. He brought up a
44 member of the public's perceived conflict of interest in members of the board. Discussion on
45 this matter followed. Second item regarding the handbook was the question from Selectman
46 Sivalingam as to whether an agenda item can be added only by the Chairman. Chairman

1 Newton answered that Selectman can add an agenda item to the agenda. Selectman Sivalingam
2 motioned to set up a process to go through the handbook one section at a time per meeting or to
3 set up a special work session to do this. Lamos seconded, all in favor.

- 4 • Chairman Newton announced that the Community Garden is open and has raised beds available
5 for organic gardening at \$10/plot. Sign-up sheets are located at the Town Office building.

7 **SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

- 8 • Board received an invitation from Communities for Alcohol and Drug Free Youth (CADY)
9 which will be held on Friday, May 26, 2017.
- 10 • Estimated cost for special election: It was determined if there was also a primary that the cost
11 would be \$1,644. Discussion ensued on the pros and cons of holding a special election.
12 Selectman Sivalingam motioned to request a special election to fill seat in District 9 pursuant to
13 RSA 661:8, RSA 655:81. Lamos seconded. Selectman Barney voiced concern with the
14 perception of Ashland from other towns when other towns have opposed having a special
15 election. All in favor.
- 16 • Ashland Housing Standard Board: Chair Newton stated that the Town is required to have a
17 Housing Standard Board and that Kendall Hughes has expressed interest in being a member.
18 Selectman Lamos motioned to approve Mr. Hughes as a member of the Ashland Housing
19 Standard Board. Chairman Newton seconded, all in favor.
- 20 • Ashland Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC): Chairman Newton stated that the
21 committee has not been dissolved and should meet on an as needed basis. Selectman
22 Sivalingam asked who can call a meeting and was answered that he as the liaison could do that
23 with Board of Selectmen approval. DPW Director Paquette asked what the charge of the
24 committee was and was answered that it is to advise the Select Board and has no authority.
25 Selectman Sivalingam motioned to continue ATAC on an as needed basis. Lamos seconded,
26 all in favor. Selectman Sivalingam motioned to call a meeting as soon as possible. Lamos
27 seconded, all in favor. Chairman Newton stated that the committee is open to the public.
- 28 • Ashland Economic Development Committee (AEDC) appointment: Selectman Sivalingam
29 motioned that Cheryl Cox be appointed to the AEDC for a three year appointment. Sharps
30 seconded. All in favor.
- 31 • BOS Goals and Objectives meeting with Primex and Department Heads: It was determined
32 that a Tuesday morning would be good for most members. TA Smith will coordinate the
33 scheduling of the meeting.
- 34 • Selectman Lamos brought up that the flag light needs to be installed at the ballfield before
35 Memorial Day. DPW Director Paquette said he will look into it.
- 36 • Selectman Sivalingam suggested that in appreciation of volunteers from the last five years, a
37 Certification of Appreciation certificate be made and presented. He presented a cost from J.D.
38 Design of \$187 for 200 certificates or \$367 for custom designed ones.
39 Chairman Newton added that it has been proposed to have a Volunteer Day in honor of Norm
40 DeWolfe on July 30th and this would be a good time to present the certificates. TA Smith
41 suggested the budget should be considered. Selectmen Sivalingam made motion contingent
42 upon finding necessary funds in the budget. Chairman Newton seconded, Lamos abstained
43 from vote due to conflict of interest, rest in favor. Chairman Newton brought up a Committee
44 for the Volunteer Day is needed.
- 45 • Selectman Sivalingam brought up ratification of the March 2017 election results. TA Smith
46 said 72-hour notification of a public hearing and posted in a newspaper was required before the

1 board could ratify the March 16, 2017 vote. Selectman Sivalingam motioned to initiate process
2 to bring about vote for possible ratification. Lamos seconded, all in favor.

- 3 • Selectman Sivalingam stated as the liaison to the Water and Sewer Committee he distributed
4 their quarterly report to the board.
- 5 • Selectman Sivalingam said he looked into the road reconstruction project for Smith Hill Road
6 and Thompson Street and contacted an engineer, Mr. Hayes. The engineer said he would review
7 the plan for \$100/hour and offer public conversation on the issue for approximately \$650.
8 Chairman Newton said that would be an ATAC Committee issue.
- 9 • Selectman Sivalingam asked if there is an option to have a special meeting to come up with an
10 operational budget. Selectman Lamos said we are allowed only one special meeting per year.
- 11 • Selectman Sharps read an update from the recent Planning Board meeting, PRLAC, and the 4th
12 of July committee.

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14 There being no other business, Selectman Lamos made motion to adjourn, Chairman Newton seconded.
15 All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

16
17 Respectfully submitted,

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20 Wendy Smith
21 May 3, 2017
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