

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 7, 2014
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL CAFETERIA
6:30 PM**

MINUTES

At 6:30 Chairman DeWolfe opened the **Public Hearing** as previously posted. The hearing is to discuss the proposal for renewal of the cable television franchise agreement for Time Warner Cable. Don Latulippe talked about Blue Sky Drive. The previous Board approved the contract. This Board will continue to pursue the issue. Time Warner says that it is a density issue. No one else spoke. Chairman DeWolfe closed the public hearing at 6:42 PM.

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 6:50PM with a roll call. Fran Newton, Steve Felton, Norm DeWolfe present. Preston and Stewart absent with notice.

Others Present: Paul Branscombe, Pat Crowell and members of the Public.

APPROVALS

Minutes of March 17: Newton moved to approve with corrections. Felton seconded. All in favor 3-0

Minutes of March 24: Newton moved to approve as written. Felton seconded. All in favor 3-0

The Selectmen signed three abatements:

- a) Map/Lot #17-5-8 Change in value of assessment based on condition of property. Felton moved to approve. Newton seconded. All in favor 3-0
- b) Map Lot #17-9-2 Change in building value based on inspection. Newton moved to approve. Felton seconded. All in favor 3-0
- c) Map Lot #22-1-1 Change in building value based on inspection. Newton moved to approve. Felton seconded. Felton asked if there was a policy to inspect property with new owners. Branscombe said no. All in favor 3-0

Selectmen also signed a gravel tax levy and yield tax levy:

- a) Map/Lot # 008-001-001 Gravel Tax \$18.50 Felton moved to approve. Newton seconded. All in favor 3-0
- b) Map/Lot # 023-001-002 & 023-003-004 Timber Tax \$72.52 Newton moved to approve. Felton seconded. All in favor 3-0

Library Trustee – Newton moved to appoint Mardean Badger as a Library Trustee regular voting member. Felton seconded. All in favor 3-0

OLD BUSINESS

Time Warner Cable renewal of contract – Newton would like to hold off on signing the contract until Blue Sky Drive situation is settled. The Board also decided not to impose

franchise fees because they typically will reflect on citizen's bills. TA Branscombe will send a letter to the cable franchise attorney.

Resolution for Concerned Citizen issue – It was decided that the gate at the Public Works garage should be locked at night and on weekends and that signs, whenever possible, should be placed warning of town vehicles and work being in done in road ahead. Felton moved, Newton seconded. All in favor 3-0

Procedure for 91A requests – TA Branscombe gave the board a copy of the procedure for accepting 91A requests. If the request will have a lot of copies, a 50% deposit will be asked for. Felton moved to accept the new policy and form. Newton seconded. All in favor 3-0
The new policy and form will be posted on the website.

Fire Department Copier Lease – Chairman DeWolfe explained that the old copier could be purchased at the end of the lease for \$1.00. The Fire Department has purchased a new copier that will allow them to print from an emergency situation. Felton moved to recommend purchasing the old copier for \$1.00 and also keep the new copier. Newton seconded. All in favor 3-0

Town Hall Improvements-USDA Rural Development – There is only \$7000 in General Government budget line. The estimate to replace the windows is \$44,000. Branscombe stated that in order to be considered for a grant from the USDA we will need to minimize the requirements in regards to handicapped accessibility. The town office is on the National Register. Doors are not wide enough. Branscombe will complete the application.

NEW BUSINESS

Community Access cable TV(pbCAM) – Branscombe asked the Board to decide if they wanted to have both meetings televised. He said that the money is in the budget for both meetings. Felton moved to have the meetings televised. Newton seconded. All in favor 3-0

Land Use Clerk – Eli Badger explained the Planning Board & the Zoning Board need help with the abutter notices. He suggested that the Building Inspector do this. Felton asked for an average of time involved. Badger thought that it was no extra time for the Building Inspector. Toney Randall said that as long as he has been submitting things to the Planning and Zoning Boards it has always gone through Clerks office. He stated that he believes that it should go through the town office not the Building Inspector.

Electrical Inspector – Branscombe stated that due to the passing of Butch Smith, the town needs a new inspector. Newton asked how this has been handled in the past. The Building Inspector will handle electrical inspections in the short term. Felton moved to post the job and to speak with the Building Inspector and make a decision after the interviews. Newton seconded. All in favor 3-0

Library Payment Schedule – Payment schedule for 2014. The town has already paid the first quarter. Newton moved to accept the payment schedule. Felton seconded. Felton said that the schedule submitted was very well done. All in favor 3-0

Economic Development Committee presentation – Susan MacLeod gave presentation regarding what the Economic Development committee will be focusing on. She stated that we

need to define our identity and control growth. She said that there are nine goals and recommendations. The Board thanked MacLeod for her hard work and the great job that she has done. DeWolfe said that the Board will discuss and asked if the presentation could be put on the website. She said that it wouldn't be a problem.

Campground Trailer – A camper has not paid for half of last year and has paid nothing so far this year. Jim Gleich explained that the town could remove the trailer from the site and store it. It is in the contract that the camper signs that the town can charge \$100 month storage fee. There are 17 names on the list that are waiting for a site. After much discussion, the board decided to go ahead and send notice to quit, per discussion with legal.

Town Administrator's Report – Branscombe read his report highlighting what has transpired in the town over the past month.

Selectboard Items

Chairman DeWolfe stated that there are openings on the following committees: Zoning Board, Budget Committee, Planning Board, CIP committee, Housing Standards Board, Joint Loss, Memorial Park Trustee. An Electrical Inspector is also needed. Newton moved to re-appoint Gordon McCormack Jr for another term on the Planning Board. Felton seconded. All in favor 3-0

Sub-Committee – Newton and Felton are the board members on this committee. They looked at the default budget with is about \$62,000 lower than the operating budget. They recommend that the department heads look at their budget lines to see where money can be saved. Selectmen will review on a monthly basis. Newton said the town will need to look at regionalization in the long range. She mentioned group buying to save money. Felton explained the powerpoint presentation. The town needs to have clear job descriptions and regular evaluations. Bottom line is the \$62,000 difference which needs to be managed.

Customer Service – Newton stated that the goal of the Board is to support the taxpayers. Felton asked Branscombe what the alternatives are to the present health care costs. Branscombe said that we are getting a cost savings this year and will look at alternatives in the future. Felton asked when the audit will be ready. Branscombe said hopefully in a couple of weeks.

Public Comments

David Toth invited the Board to the ribbon cutting on April 19th for the Community Garden. The HEAL Committee's goal is to introduce residents to healthy foods. The community garden committee will provide plants and design garden beds. He thanks the Board for their support.

Sandra Coleman asked the Board if they signed the default budget. The budget committee can not sign it because it was voted by a 3/5 vote that the Board has to sign it. The Chairman stated that he did not sign the default budget.

Sherri Downing said that she had made some complaints regarding the clean-up after the storms. Branscombe said that he had no complaints.

Tim Paquette said that he received one phone call regarding Mechanic Street parking lot. That lot has been plowed every storm.

Sherri Downing stated that there seems to be no communication between the Town Administrator and the Public Works Department.

There being no further business, Chairman DeWolfe moved to go into Non-Public pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) regarding compensation of employees at 8:57 PM. Newton seconded. All in favor 3-0

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Crowell
4-11-14