

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES**  
**MONDAY NOVEMBER 3, 2014**  
**ASHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY**  
**7:00 pm**

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with a roll call. Fran Newton, Steve Felton, Norm DeWolfe, Phil Preston, present. Jeanette I Stewart absent with notice.

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

Patsy Tucker and Linda Guyotte explained the procedure for taking credit cards for taxes, motor vehicle, and dog licenses. As of January 1, 2015 Ashland will be a "one check" town, meaning that for motor vehicle registrations residents will only have to write one check to the town. Linda explained that she will open a new account so that all monies will be deposited into that account. There will be a 2.95% interest fee paid by the customer plus a \$1.15 fee. A scanner is provided but will need another one. Newton moved to approve the new process. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

Jane Sawyer and Bob Baker spoke about the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration planned for 2018. They asked the Board to send a letter to NH Motor Vehicle Division to ask permission to sell commemorative license plates for Ashland residents. Preston moved to approve sending letter. Felton seconded. All in favor.

**APPROVALS**

September 15, 2014 – Felton moved to approve with some corrections. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.  
October 3, 2014 – Preston moved to approve with corrections. Felton seconded. All in favor.  
October 6, 2014 – Felton moved to approve with corrections. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.  
October 14, 2014 – Newton moved to approve as submitted. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.  
October 20, 2014 – Felton moved to approve with corrections. Newton seconded. All in favor.  
October 24, 2014 (7:45 AM) – Felton moved to approve as submitted. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.  
October 24, 2014 (10 AM) – Felton moved to approve as submitted. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

**SIGNATURE FILE**

Board signed the Tax Warrant. Announced that the new Tax Rate is \$23.97. Also, the Chairman announced that the bill for the county taxes is \$370,712, which is due in December.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Code of Ethics** – The town attorney said that the new code of ethics can't be adopted as is. Branscombe will ask the attorney's opinion to combine it with the one that is in the Personnel Policy.

**Scott Heath/Ashland Properties – Brownfields Assessment Grant** – After some investigation DeWolfe and Branscombe determined that Scott Heath doesn't own any other property in New Hampshire. Branscombe wants to set up a meeting through John Glidden to ask Heath to board up the property and to get his approval for the assessment. Newton explained the Brownfields grant which will be awarded at the end of the year.

**Fire Department Engine One Water Tank** – Engine One needs to be repaired. The cost originally was about \$2550. The new estimate is \$3150.

**Priority Table** – Newton updated the Board. The new Code Enforcement form is on the web site. There was some confusion about the Land Use accounting line and will have to have Sue MacLeod meet with the Finance Officer. The Board asked Tim Paquette to come in to the meeting to explain what was going

on with the Moos Corner Bridge. He told the Board that work is ongoing and is on schedule. The TAP Grant has been submitted.

**Concerned Citizens Report** – Branscombe reported that 221 Thompson Street is ongoing. The dog “poop” issue has been referred to the owner of the property.

Branscombe reported that the lights in the town office should be changed to T12’s which have a 7+ year lifespan. Branscombe asked the Board if the money could be taken from the Government Repair Line. The Town will receive \$15,000 in rebates. Newton moved to expend \$5633 for lighting in town buildings. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Approve Workers Compensation budget line, AEDC budget request, PD Changes** – The Board agreed to approve a budget request from the Economic Development Committee for \$500. The Workers Compensation line is changed to \$20,822. Chairman DeWolfe explained the changes in the Police Department budget lines.

**Vacation, Sick, & Personal Time form** – Chairman DeWolfe asked Pat Crowell if she thought that this form would work. Crowell said she has talked with the Chief Randall and Tim Paquette. She has told them that she will give them the totals for what each of their employees have for vacation, sick, and personal time.

**2015 Health Insurance – Employee Contribution** – Chairman DeWolfe stated that the Board had received a request from non-union personnel to start the 10% contribution on April 1<sup>st</sup> instead of January 1<sup>st</sup>. The Board agreed that it was a reasonable request and all were in favor.

**Park & Recreation – Booster Club Improvements** – Jim Gleich, Park & Rec. Director, was in the audience and came up to explain. The wood floors in the Booster Club need to be refinished. He wanted the Board’s permission to use the money in an encumbrance line to pay for this. There is \$2100 in that line. The cost to do the floor is \$2400. The building will be shut down for at least a week while the work is being done and the floor dries. Newton moved to approve the use of the money in the encumbrance line to refinish the floors. Felton seconded. All in favor. 4-0

**Town Meeting Date** – The Board set the meeting date for January 31, 2015 at 1 PM. Phil moved. Felton seconded. All in favor. 4-0 The meeting will be in the school gymnasium. Branscombe said that the warrant articles will be discussed at the next worksession.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT** – Branscombe reported on what has been happening in the last month with the different departments of the town. His report will be posted on the Town website.

#### **SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

Felton talked about the IT services comparison. He recommends staying with CCS. He also recommended that CCS handle our email system. He also mentioned that he would be attending the North Country Economic Development Council meeting on Wednesday. He talked about the meeting that he attended with Branscombe, Pat Tucker, and Michelle Therrien. Ms Therrien talked about GIS mapping and digitizing the property tax maps. She will put together a proposal with a timeline by 12/5/14. Felton also asked her to attend the next Economic Development meeting.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Dan Vaughn** asked the Board to reject the Union contract.

**Linda Guyotte** explained to the Board that she didn’t know what the hold up is about putting a line item in the budget. She said that a line can be put in and \$1.00 can be put in it. The Chairman thanked Linda

for clarifying the situation and said that there would be no need to have a meeting with the Planning Board Chairman.

**Mark Ober** – He asked the Board about what he had read in the paper about the retirees having to pay 10% for their insurance coverage starting January 1, 2014. The Chairman said that it had been a proposal and has been sent back to the Personnel Policy Committee.

Dan Vaughn – Stood up again and asked that the Board reject the Union Contract because he said that what the Union proposes to pay for the employees share of the health insurance is different from what the other employees pay now and that it is unfair.

There being no further business, Felton moved to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) with a Roll Call. Newton seconded. Felton, Newton, Preston, DeWolfe, all yes. The time is 8:30 pm. The Board decided to take a two minute break.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Crowell  
11-5-14