

**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN WORKSESSION
MONDAY, JULY 20, 2015
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY**

MINUTES

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 6:40 PM following the Public Hearing with a roll call. Steve Felton, Leigh Sharps, Fran Newton, Phil Preston, Normand DeWolfe.

Others Present: Town Administrator Paul Branscombe and Pat Crowell.

OLD BUSINESS

Update Town Administrator Search:

Branscombe told the Board what we paid Laconia Sun and the Record Enterprise for advertising the position. He also said what the Concord Monitor and Union Leader would charge. Felton said that it would be a larger audience. Branscombe said that Moultonborough just chose ten people to interview and we might get some of the ones that didn't get picked to apply. Branscombe said that he can post on ListServe which goes out to the whole state. The Board asked him to check on what MRI would charge to do a search. The Board decided to meet on Wednesday at 8AM to discuss the resumes received.

The Chairman announced that on July 17th he received an email from the Town Administrator, Paul Branscombe, saying that he was resigning and giving notice until the end of August. He also said that he has received another letter from Branscombe requesting that July 24th be his last day. Branscombe has said that he will not be seeking any further compensation or benefits, which will cease the end of the month. Mr. Branscombe has accepted a position in Gilmanton. The Board thanked Paul for his contribution to the Town. Newton motioned to accept Branscombe's request. Sharps seconded. Preston said with regret. All in favor. After some discussion, Newton motioned to have DeWolfe and Felton go into the office on Thursday to "shadow" Branscombe. Sharps seconded. All in favor.

Financial Review

DeWolfe said that we have spent \$50,000 less than at this time last year. He projects that there will be about \$1000,000 surplus at year end. Felton said his only comment would be that both legal lines will be overspent.

Current Issue Log

Newton asked about the town ordinances. They will be covered at the next work session. She also asked about the cease and desist that Bob Flanders was issuing. Branscombe said there has been no activity. After the meeting on the 22nd with Primex representative we will be on track for the Prime discount. There will be no visit from the DRA. DeWolfe reminded the Board of the visit from DES at the Town Beach on the 23rd at 8:30. Need to do RFP's for auditing and legal services.

Parking in Ashland

The Chairman said that the Board will continue to look at different areas. Currently looking at Parkway. Will speak with Mr. Glidden.

Heritage Commission

The Chairman asked Sharps what was going on with the commission. She stated that they need more members. DeWolfe asked if anyone was interested.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Department request for withdrawal from CRF

The Board received a note from Chief Randall that one of the cruiser's needs some work. He would like to take the money out of the Capital Reserve Fund because his budget is too tight. Newton moved to authorize the Treasurer to move money, \$30,000, to the CRF and then request the money from the Trustees of the Trust Fund. Sharps second. All in favor. Preston moved to authorize the Town Administrator to ask Treasurer. Sharps second. All in favor.

Knotweed Management – DeWolfe mentioned the information received regarding how to best manage the invasive plant. This information was shared with Paquette a few weeks ago. Paquette said that he has spoken to a person who is certified and takes care of knotweed on people's property. That person said that no one is certified to get rid of it on roadways. Paquette said that maybe the Department of Agriculture could help. DeWolfe said that he has knotweed on his property. He suggested that the Public Works Dept. and the Conservation Commission work together. To get rid of knotweed is a 4 or 5 year process. Need to have a plan and timeline. DeWolfe also mentioned that a resident filed a complaint. Paquette said that he tried calling that person but the given phone number was not working. This should be put on the priority list.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS

Sharps said that the minutes should just say who is present or not present.

There being no other business, **Newton moved to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II (b) at 7:40 PM.** Felton seconded. All in favor 5-0 **Roll Call Vote:** DeWolfe, yes; Felton, yes; Preston, yes; Newton, yes; Sharps, yes. Discussed the Town Administrator candidates. Newton moved to leave non-public session at 8:09 PM. Newton seconded. All in favor. 5-0

Newton moved to leave non-public session and reconvene public session at 8:09 PM. Preston seconded. All in favor. No decisions were made, will follow up with meeting on Wednesday 7/22/15 at 8 AM.

Newton moved to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II (c) at 8:12 PM. Sharps seconded. All in favor 5-0 **Roll Call Vote:** DeWolfe, yes; Felton, yes; Preston, yes; Newton, yes; Sharps, yes. Discussed issues with enrollment at the Park & Rec Dept. DeWolfe asked Board

members to confirm. Preston moved to leave non-public session at 8:27 PM. Felton seconded. All in favor. 5-0

Preston moved to leave non-public session and reconvene public session at 8:27 PM. Felton seconded.

The Board decided to schedule a non-public session with the Park & Rec Director on Wednesday, 7/22/15 at 8:30 AM.

There being no further business, DeWolfe moved to adjourn at 8:30 PM. Preston seconded. All in favor 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Crowell
7-23-15

There being no other business, Preston moved to adjourn at 8:20 PM. Newton seconded. All in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Crowell
5-20-15