

**TOWN OF ASHLAND
PUBLIC HEARING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LIBRARY**

MINUTES

Chairman DeWolfe explained the reasons for the **Public Hearings**.

1. Lease/Purchase Agreement for a new Fire Engine/Pumper. There were no comments.
2. \$5.00 fee for Motor Vehicle Registrations – Newton said that this is a “no brainer”. All residents in the town with a motor vehicle would be paying this, including renters. The fee would benefit municipal transportation improvements.
3. \$25,000 Library USDA Rural Development Grant – Mardean Badger explained the grant. She said that it is for shelving for the new library if that warrant article passes. The grant has been applied for and there are no matching funds. They should know in April.

There being no other comments, the Chairman closed the Public Hearings. The Work Session immediately followed.

Chairman DeWolfe called the meeting to order at 6:34 PM with a roll call. Leigh Sharps, Phil Preston, Steve Felton, Normand DeWolfe, Fran Newton, present.

Others Present: Town Administrator Heather Thibodeau and Pat Crowell

GUEST: Rick Alpers from PRIMEX came before the Board to formally deliver the plaque that states that the Town has been certified PRIME status. This includes a 2.5% discount each on Worker's Compensation and Liability insurance.

OLD BUSINESS

Outsourcing Payroll – The Board has decided after getting estimates from several payroll companies, to go with BMSI. Preston moved to approve and Newton seconded. All in favor.

Town Report update – The Board would like to use a color picture for the front cover of this year's report. TA Thibodeau will also write a dedication to all the volunteers who have devoted so much time and energy last year. The rest of the report is ready to go to the printer.

NEW BUSINESS

Finance Officer – TA Thibodeau said that she has received Brenda Paquette's resignation. She will be leaving next week, but will be here for the auditors. Preston moved to accept Paquette's resignation with regrets and best wishes. DeWolfe seconded. All in favor. The Board asked that the position be posted as soon as possible.

Sign on Flag Island – The Chairman asked about the small piece of land in the middle of town. It would be nice to have a small sign there to advertise “to lower village”. David Ruell said that the town owns that piece of land. The question is what will the DOT allow? Thibodeau will talk with DOT and the garden club.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES

Thibodeau said that the asbestos has been removed in the town office. She said that we didn't have as much as previously thought. Baker Valley Floors will be in tomorrow to begin carpeting. Thibodeau said that she will have department head reports for the first meeting of the month.

SELECTBOARD ITEMS

Felton asked about Nobis Engineering. He wanted some help with a RFP. Thibodeau will check into that. Felton also asked about the Current Issue Log. It will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Sharps reported that she had been to the Heritage Commission meeting. She said that Sue McLeod would like to join. She also mentioned that the commission would like to get a post office box. The Whipple House report is finished. Frank Stevens will be giving a presentation of old barns in town. Sharps also asked about exploring Solar Energy. She said that Nobis could do presentation regarding that. The Board asked that Solar Energy be added to the Current Issue Log.

There being no other business, **Felton moved to go into Non-Public Pursuant to RSA 91-A:3,II (a) at 6:54 PM.** Newton seconded. All in favor 5-0 **Roll Call Vote:** Preston, yes; Sharps, yes; DeWolfe, yes; Felton, yes; Newton, yes.

Respectfully Submitted,
Patricia Crowell
2-18-16