

ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25TH 2017
ASHLAND TOWN OFFICE BUILDING
7:30 AM

The Board of Selectmen convened for a Wednesday morning meeting to finalize warrant article recommendations, voter's guide, and address any other items presented before the board. Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 7:31 AM. Present: Chairman Fran Newton, Selectmen Katie Maher, Harold Lamos, and Leigh Sharps. Selectman Steve Felton was on teleconference. Also present was Town Administrator Charles Smith and Fire Chief Heath

1. **Voter's Guide**; the Selectmen began the meeting by reviewing the 2017 voter's guide and finalizing the facts and description of the warrant articles.
2. **Article 4 – Fire Engine**; the Town Administrator informed the board that the NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) has recommended changing the wording of Article 4 on this years' warrant. The article requests \$125K be drawn from the Fire Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (CRF) and be used as a down payment for a new fire engine. DRA has informed the town this is would be disallowed because the article has an escape clause which requires future payments be voted upon by the town. The CRF can be used for the fire engine but with a lease purchase agreement it can only be for the final payment. Board decided later to recess until 1pm in order to allow Chief Heath time to follow up with Community Leasing Partners and determine the new payments.
3. **Thompson St/High St/Smith Hill Road project**; TA Smith provided the board an update about the USDA application for future financing with the road project. As part of their application USDA requires an environmental report. The report was not previously completed by the engineers and would be an added cost to complete. TA Smith recommended the application be placed on hold until after the SB 2 vote and final approval of the project. If the projects approved the town can reapply with USDA and their April 14th deadline.
 - a. **Nobis Engineering** – TA Smith had a conference call with Nobis Engineering and forwarded correspondence to the board. The road project could have an estimated 12 easements which need to be completed before construction can begin. And the project also may require 15-16 utility poles be moved. Further research to be done and determined as to the costs for removal.
4. **Administrative Assistant/Assistant Town Clerk/Tax Collector**; board voted unanimously to change the title of the position to Office Manager and remove the union requirement of the position. Board also agreed to allow the Town Administrator to start posting for the position opening.
5. **Trustees of the Trust Funds** – the board discussed the meetings of the Trustees and the recording of their meeting minutes. The Board requested that TA Smith draft a letter which requests the meeting minutes from last year that addressed the new Electric Department building.

The board recessed their meeting at 9:36 AM until 1 PM. Chief Heath discussed with the board new wording for Article 4 and changes to the finance amount. The board voted 3-2 to recommend the article. Board adjourned at 1:31pm.

Next board meeting coincides with the Deliberative Session and is scheduled for Saturday, February 4th at 1 PM in the Ashland Elementary School gymnasium.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Smith