

ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
MONDAY, JULY 10, 2017
ASHLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT
6:30 PM

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with a roll call. Chairman Fran Newton, Vice Chairman Harold Lamos, Selectmen Casey Barney, and Tejasinha Sivalingam present; Selectman Leigh Sharps was absent. Others present: Town Administrator Charles Smith and Administrative Assistant Wendy Smith.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeannette Stewart voiced her view that the public comment section of the meeting should include non-agenda items. Chair Newton responded that the Board allows comments on items discussed on the agenda and will consider options in the future.

MINUTES

June 19, 2017-Amendments: Page 3, lines 1 and 2, strike “view that the Board was premature in being defensive about this matter” Chair Newton motioned to approve as amended, Barney seconded. Four in favor, Vice Chair Lamos abstained until Chair Newton reviews video of meeting regarding his suggested amendment on Page 2, Lines 41 and 42.

CONSENT AGENDA

General Fund Manifest for the week of July 10th, 2017 signed by majority of Selectmen; Memo to TOTF for CRF disbursements towards shim and overlay/crack fill on River Street and chip seal on N. Ashland Road was signed by a majority of the Selectmen.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

- Parks and Recreation Director Ann Barney, spoke on installing a barrier at the town park after an accident occurred there before camp started. She contacted NHDOT who said there has to be a 33’ right of way which would place the barrier on the side of the hill. Vice Chair Lamos suggested using telephone poles as a backstop, which could be used for movies in the park or advertising. Chair Newton said further discussion of options is needed. TA Smith said he also talked to NHDOT about a guardrail system and was told that a guardrail there was not a top priority for them. Cost for a guardrail would be \$25/linear foot, length would be approximately 40’, approval for the installation of a guardrail would be by NHDOT. DPW Director Tim Paquette felt it would look better if it was started at the entrance way and ran the whole length of the park. Other possibilities were discussed such as plantings. Selectman Sivalingam encouraged the Board to seek a timely resolution that balanced efficacy with financial considerations to prevent similar future events. Parks and Recreation Director was tasked with investigating options for action. The consensus was that the Town should logically move forward on rectifying this problem and possibly consult with engineers and/or the Transportation Advisory Committee at LRPC.
 - Director Barney asked the Board to sign thank you letters to Elaine Hughes Realty Group, Custance Brothers Woodworking, and the Common Man Restaurant for donations and service to the Town. Majority of the Selectmen signed the letters.

- 1 • Fire Chief Steve Heath presented the lease agreement for the new fire apparatus. Vice Chair
2 Lamos motioned to accept the lease agreement. Selectman Sivalingam seconded contingent
3 that Chair Newton sign. All in favor. Chair Newton signed and Page 10 of lease agreement
4 was signed by Lamos and Barney.
- 5 • Public Works Director Paquette, requested the purchase a 1996 John Deere grader. Director
6 Paquette provided information about the grader and the person selling the grader. Discussion
7 followed on options and viability of the grader. Vice Chair Lamos motioned to approve the
8 purchase of the grader with the funds to be disbursed from the Public Works Capital Reserve
9 Fund. Chair Newton seconded, all in favor.
 - 10 ○ Director Paquette announced the passing of James Godville, who worked for many
11 years at the town DPW. Director Paquette and the Board expressed their condolences.
- 12 • Town Administrator Smith asked the board for a deadline date to receive our Request For
13 Qualification (RFQ) with the NHDOT TAP grant. TA Smith briefly went over the upcoming
14 timeline and suggested August 18th 2017. Vice Chair Lamos asked if the sidewalk egress would
15 also be addressed. Chair Newton said we can negotiate that once we have the agreement. TA
16 Smith said the RFQ has been reviewed and approved by DOT. Selectman Sivalingam motioned
17 to establish one month from July 14th 2017 as the deadline (August 18, 2017). Chair Newton
18 seconded, all in favor.
 - 19 ○ Unsealing nonpublic meeting minutes: TA Smith said there are two options for the
20 board in opening sealed minutes: schedule a meeting with the minutes to review, if
21 discussion were to follow go into nonpublic under the RSA the minutes were sealed,
22 and then make an announcement on whether or not to unseal the minutes. The other
23 option would be for the board to designate someone from the Board to review all the
24 unsealed minutes and return with a recommendation. Selectman Sivalingam thought it
25 would be better to have more Board members involved as well as TA Smith. Selectman
26 Sivalingam motioned to table until a full Board was present. Vice Chair Lamos
27 seconded, all in favor.
- 28 • Citizen inquiry: town received a request to remove the speed bumps near the town beach and
29 replace them with a sign. Discussion followed in which it was determined that this was tried in
30 the past and didn't work. The speed bumps are temporary (installed for three months during the
31 summer) and overall necessary to slow down the traffic in the area where children cross. It was
32 brought up that the bumps get illegally removed and tamper proof bolts might help deter this.
33 DPW Director Paquette will look into purchasing the specialty bolts.
- 34 • Board was reminded about their attendance at the upcoming special election on Tuesday, July
35 18th at the Ashland Fire Station, from 8 AM to 7 PM.

36 37 **OLD BUSINESS**

38 Selectman Sivalingam spoke regarding the possibility of the Selectboard and the Budget Committee
39 meeting to discuss the RSA 32:10, I (e) "no means no" provision. Vice Chair Lamos suggested the
40 midyear budget review meeting in August would be a good opportunity. Discussion followed and it
41 was clarified that the Selectboard would have a meeting with the Budget Committee with the intent of
42 having an open meeting for communication purposes. TA Smith will arrange the meeting.

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1 **NEW BUSINESS**

- 2 • Town Office building installation of fiber optic cable: Tony Salamanca, representative from
3 First Light made presentation on installing fiber optic cable to the Town Office building. The
4 Ashland Elementary School previously ran the cable with the hope Town Office could also
5 utilize the cable line. Pros and cons of the project were discussed as well as the possibility of
6 adding the Library and the Fire Department in the future. Selectman Barney made motion to
7 go forward with the fiber optic cable installation. Vice Chair Lamos seconded. Time frame of
8 pricing was determined to be 90 days. Three in favor Selectman Sivalingam voted against.
- 9 • Whipple House tree removal: David Ruell requested permission from the Board to remove a
10 tree before it causes further damage as it's growing into the foundation of the Whipple House.
11 Vice Chair Lamos asked about donating the wood to people in need of fire wood. Chair Newton
12 suggested Mr. Ruell speak with Mark Liebert about that. Selectmen Sivalingam expressed
13 reservation of the ecological impact and that is there is no proposal to replace the tree. Vice
14 Chair Lamos motioned to remove the tree and plant another suitable tree to be dedicated to
15 James Godville. Selectman Sivalingam seconded, all in favor.

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17 **SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

- 18 • Volunteer Day: Chair Newton met with Katie Maher, Kathleen DeWolfe, and Susan MacLeod.
19 It was decided that the date would be on September 11, with a rain date of September 12. People
20 would work on sprucing up the outside of the Town Office followed by a small celebration.
21 Donations would be collected from the public for a plaque and garden supplies. Other funding
22 would come under the umbrella of the Heritage Commission. A motion was made by Vice
23 Chair Lamos to authorize up to \$500 in expenditures for the “Town of Ashland Appreciation
24 Day”. Selectman Sivalingam seconded, all in favor.
- 25 • Proposed order policy: Selectman Sivalingam drafted and presented policy to ensure meetings
26 will be in order. It was determined that the Board would need more time to review the proposal.
27 Vice Chair Lamos felt a full board should be present also. Vice Chair Lamos motioned to table,
28 Selectman Barney seconded. All in favor.
- 29 • Chair Newton reported on the Economic Development Committee meeting with Plymouth
30 State University.
- 31 • Vice Chair Lamos reported that 4th of July went very well with many of the needed volunteers
32 attending the follow up meeting. Chair Newton expressed the Boards appreciation to the 4th of
33 July Committee and its volunteers.

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35 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

36 Alice Staples, Library Trustee Chairperson, voiced her observance that the library building has a finite
37 life span. Chair Newton thanked all the Library Trustees. Mardean Badger suggested that the 4th of
38 July Committee reach out to neighboring towns for participation in the future.

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40 There being no other business, Chairman Newton made a motion to adjourn, Vice Chairman Lamos
41 seconded, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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43 Respectfully submitted,

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45 Wendy Smith
46 July 11, 2017