

Ashland Board of Selectmen
Meeting November 13, 2019
Ashland Town Hall Conference Room

Attendees: Fran Newton, Eli Badger, Kathleen DeWolfe, Leigh Sharps.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Fran Newton at 3:00 PM. The first order of business was to discuss the annual review of the Town Manager, Charlie Smith. C. Barney was unable to attend, but he had provided his comments in advance of the meeting. E. Badger made a motion to go into non-public at 3:10. The motion was seconded by K. DeWolfe. Roll call was unanimous to approve motion.

The non-public meeting adjourned at 3:58.

The Board discussed concerns regarding maintaining the Fourth of July Committee (4JC) as a town committee. While the Board fully supports the event and recognizes the value of it to the town, and after due consideration and consultation with our insurance provider, we expressed procedural, financial and liability concerns with it remaining as a town committee as follows:

- Financial/Contractual
 - The finances of the 4JC are kept separate from the Town budget and therefore has no oversight from the BOS.
 - The town contributes to the funding by paying for detail wages, which are in our budget.
 - All other official town committees have funding lines in the town budget.
 - The Town Manager signed off on contracts.
- Membership
 - Many of the officers and members on the committee are not Ashland residents. The Heritage Committee had previously sought a legal opinion from the New Hampshire Municipal Association (NHMA) concerning having the 4JC as a town committee. Since the committee is not a statutory board, the recommendation was that officers of the committee should be town residents.
- Insurance and Liability/Legal
 - Contracts may not have been reviewed to ensure third party liability, e.g., for food or attractions that pose potential risk.
 - Town assumes additional risk if the committee is under the jurisdiction of the town

Given that we are well into the planning for 2020, we agree that we will agree to keeping the 4JC as a town committee for 2020 as long as the following conditions are met:

1. There will be a residency requirement for official committee members (officers). All non-residents will be considered volunteers.
2. The committee will consist of no more than 5 members, appointed by the BOS
3. All monies will be handled by and tracked by the Town
4. All contracts and vendor permits will be authorized by the Town Manager
5. All vendors to be considered for permits must have insurance indemnifying the Town of Ashland.
6. All food vendors must be licensed. All non-profits must have insurance
7. All volunteers must have completed approved forms
8. All plans must be approved by the BOS by March.
9. The approved Social Media Policy must be signed by 4JC committee and followed
10. All RSA 91-A provisions must be followed.

The board will develop a volunteer form for the 4JC and ask for additional volunteer information sheets that Primex has provided to the BOS for the 4JC. We will discuss our concerns and announce our decisions at the next regular meeting of the BOS (Monday, November 18)

The meeting adjourned at 4:26 PM.

Respectively submitted

Fran Newton