Board of Selectmen Meeting
Minutes

Date: February 28, 2012

Time: 7:03 p.m.

Members present: Peter McMurray, Dan Meunier and Joe Casey arrived at 7:35 p.m.

2) Motion to approve minutes of February 15, 2012 as recorded.

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Peter McMurray Vote: Unan

3rd in a series of land agreements. Maps given to BOS for review. Selectmen had no questions.
Dr. McCauley property on Simonds Rd.

3) Motion to approve and sign on Purchase and Sale Agreement (Gary Howland, NRWA and Ashby Land Trust).

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Peter McMurray Vote: Unan

Regionalization Update: PM states “there is no agreement with the Town of Ashburnham”. There was no grant money available to do a study on regionalization with Ashburnham. All information obtained is and will be posted on the Town’s website. He explained the reason why the Town is looking into a solution to the problem and the State will eventually be telling all towns to regionalize. Representatives from both towns have attended the regionalization meetings. He reiterated that the regionalization is for DISPATCH ONLY. State is going to require that 2 dispatchers be on service at all times. Town cannot afford to do this. This is a feasibility study only that is being conducted at this time. Both towns would share cost for a dispatch center. Each town would be responsible for their own radios. Doug Briggs has contacted the State to see if he can sit on a committee. These meetings do not qualify as an OPEN Meeting; however they are posted on the website.
Citizen: Asked why Ashby can’t be the Host Community and Ashburnham come here. Also what about crossing county lines.
PM: Would have to build new facility. Nothing would be done until at least until 2014. Reminded people that the Town voted down a new facility. There may also be a need to build a new tower.
Citizen: What will happen to our town employees?
PM: This is the top priority for the committee. Will be talked about at next regionalization meeting on March 6th. Notice will be on Town Bulletin Board and on the website.
Citizen: What happened to joining with Townsend?
PM: Not completely out of question, however joining with them was not very feasible.
Question: Why are all the committee members’ town officials or employees?
PM: At this point in time they are the ones that need to work out all of the details and informational items.
Question: Will there be an official study?
Question: Who will have final decision on regionalization?
PM: He is in favor of Townspeople making final decision.
Question: Why is next Regionalization meeting being held at 4:30 pm?
PM: This time is what works best for the committee members. Wants time later. This is still only an information meeting.

Citizen: Can we request copies of the meeting?
Answer: Yes
Citizen: Can we still get an article on the town warrant for the grant?
PM: Yes, we cannot get an extension on the last date to hold the meeting.
Citizen: When did we decide to start working on regionalization?
PM: 3 weeks ago. We did not know about the grant until then and this is why it was not known before then.
Citizen: Where does the source of the grant money come from?
PM: Verizon, it on your phone bill.
Citizen: Why is Townsend not Ashburnham called for backup on Ambulance Calls.
DB: We have an agreement with Townsend and they have the advantage of Paramedics.
Question: Is this reversible if it doesn’t work out.
PM: No
Question: How will the Police Chief’s position work?
PM: It will be a communications committee.
Question: Cost of regionalization
DB: $360,000.
Slides were shown by Doug Briggs to compare costs. What upgrades would cost Ashby for what needs to be done and what we would save by regionalization with Ashburnham. He explained how working with Ashburnham will benefit both towns.
Citizen: No matter what happens the town needs to get the people out of the “hell hole” in the back of Town Hall.
Reimbursement from Ice Storm has been received and they are looking to move monies into free cash.

4) Motion to approve and sign on Memo to Board of Assessors to Release Excess Overlay.

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Joe Casey Vote: Unan

Any other business not reasonably anticipated by the Chairman:

Doug Briggs would like a reserve fund transfer for the Animal Control Officer.

5) Motion to approve and sign on a Reserve Fund Transfer to the Animal Control Account for the purpose of care and feeding of stray animals which has increased due to people moving and leaving there pets.

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Joe Casey Vote: Unan

Doug Briggs requested that we open up the warrant to put an article on in regard to school feasibility study to examine the feasibility of improvements or building of a new high school.

6) Motion to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Joe Casey Vote: Unan
7) Motion to approve and sign on the borrowing of funds by the NMRSD for the purpose of cost involved in a feasibility study for NMRHS. (To be put on warrant)

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Joe Casey Vote: Unan

8) Motion to approve and sign on Ballot question that the Town of Ashby be exempt from the provisions of Prop 2-1/2 to pay the bond issues. (To be put on warrant)

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Joe Casey Vote: Unan

Joe Casey requested that the BOS be increased to 5 members to be put on warrant this year. Discussion held with Selectmen on pro’s and con’s. PM is concerned that they will have nobody to fill these positions. DM is concerned about violation of open meeting policy. (To be put on warrant).

9) Motion to approve and sign on increasing the BOS members to 5 members. (To be put on warrant).

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Joe Casey Vote: Unan

10) Motion to Close Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Joe Casey Vote: Unan

Grand Opening of Old Firehouse Museum on March 10th.
Announcement of openings in Town and who took nomination papers out for open positions. Raymond Wilkinson passed away today. Burial will be in the spring. Town Elections are April 23rd.

8:20 p.m. – Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee to discuss FY2013 Budget:

Ashby’s School Committee Representative Ken Brown for the NMRSD was in attendance to discuss and answer questions from the Selectmen and Finance Committee members in regards to the budget for the school system.

Assistant to the Board of Selectmen’s Report:

Public Comments (if any):

11) Motion to adjourn at 9:40 p.m.

Motion: Dan Meunier Seconded: Joe Casey Vote: Unan

Signed by: _________________________________

Dates Minutes Approved by Board of Selectmen: _____________