

Board of Selectmen  
Minutes

Date: May 1, 2019

Time: 7:05 p.m.

Members Present: Janet Flinkstrom, Mike McCallum and Scott Sweeney

Mike McCallum welcomes newest member of the Board – Scott Sweeney.

2) Selectmen vote Janet Flinkstrom as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Scott Sweeney                      Vote: MM/SS - Aye  
JF – Abstain

3) Selectmen vote Scott Sweeney as Clerk of Board of Selectmen.

Motion: Janet Flinkstrom                      Seconded: Mike McCallum                      Vote: Unan

4) Selectmen vote Mike McCallum as Member of Board of Selectmen.

Motion: Janet Flinkstrom                      Seconded: Scott Sweeney                      Vote: Unan

5) Selectmen approve minutes of April 10, 2019 as recorded.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom                      Vote: MM/JF - Aye  
SS – Abstain

6) Selectmen approve and sign on Payroll W22P in the amount of \$67,694.84, subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Scott Sweeney                      Vote: Unan

MM explains the meaning of “subject to further review” to SS – minor accounting changes are not re-voted.

7) Selectmen approve and sign on Vendor W22 in the amount of \$180,120.71, subject to further review.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Scott Sweeney                      Vote: Unan

8) Selectmen approve and Chairman signs on Year-End Transfers.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Scott Sweeney                      Vote: Unan

Resident requested an explanation on Free Cash and its uses. MM responded. Also remarked on how high the taxes have gone up. One Time Capital Expenditure Override Explanation given by Selectmen for purchase of new ambulance and renovations to Town Hall; paid with only 2 tax bills. Increase will be gone on the next tax bill because it has been paid. Resident requested an explanation on insurance payments made by the Town for the employees. MM responded and explained that we had several Town employees leave so money is available for Year End Transfer and we must also budget for if current employees who do not have the insurance suddenly need it or change the type of plan they are carrying. Resident explained this is Management 101 to budget for insurance changes unanticipated; even the private sector must do this as well. Mike Bussell, Fire Chief explained emergency need for replacing 27 year old Fire Truck with 20 year old Westminster Fire Truck – very well maintained. Donna Dewey requested whether everything was done to recoup

Board of Selectmen Minutes

May 1, 2019

money for the lost fire truck. MM responded yes and Ashby could not get money back. The current Fire Chief was not Chief and none of the current members of the Board were on the Board when this happened over a decade ago.

9) Selectmen accept the resignation of Jason Lunn as Highway Forman effective May 3, 2019.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Scott Sweeney                      Vote Unan

Mike Bussell commented on this with explanation regarding Comstar Write-offs.

10) Selectmen approve and Chairman signs on Comstar Non-Contractual Write-offs 03/01/19 through 03/28/19 and 01/01/95 through 03/28/19 as approved by the Fire Chief.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Scott Sweeney                      Vote Unan

Request for Selectmen's discussion of complaints received regarding businesses at 804 Fitchburg State Rd.: Andrew Miller made a complaint to the BOS and explained why he is upset with noise and cars at that address and leaking oil. He is asking for "calm down" time in the neighborhood. Would like to enjoy the summer months without noise after hours. 5 members of group that owns the businesses spoke to the complaints he is making and gave the meeting an idea on all they have been doing and have done to resolve this. Said he visited all the other neighbors and they signed a document stating there is no noise issue. Only receiving complaints from this one neighbor. JF asked if it was possible for all parties to sit down and try to come up with a fair solution to the issue. Ashby does not have a by-law on noise pollution.

Request for Selectmen to review and approve Host Community Agreement: SS asked if there will be another community outreach meeting. Has already held one & is holding a 2<sup>nd</sup>. Resident on Bennett Rd. spoke on how beneficial cannabis has been for his anxiety and PTSD. Says he would not even be able to leave his house or work due to the trauma in his life if he didn't have access to cannabis. Resident of Whitney Rd. spoke in favor of having cannabis in the community. Resident asked how the financial aspects of this would be handled. MM responded to this having been looked into. SS asked the Board what money from the Host Community could be used for. MM responded. SS stated he would abstain since he only just got the agreement yesterday & doesn't have a good handle on it yet.

11) Selectmen approve Host Community Agreement for Hemp Holistics & will sign out of session.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Seconded: Janet Flinkstrom                      Vote: MM/JF - Aye  
SS - Abstain

Any Other Business Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chairman: Scott Sweeney commented on the success of the "Keep Ashby Beautiful" and thanked everyone.

Assistant Town Administrator's Report: Read by MM & available on Ashby Website.

Public Comments (if any): Cathy Biliouris announced Historical Society fundraising events.

12) Motion to adjourn at 8:54 p.m.

Motion: Mike McCallum                      Second: Janet Flinkstrom                      Vote: Unan

Signed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Minutes Approved by Board of Selectmen: \_\_\_\_\_