

# ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE

JANUARY 10, 2013

## DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: S. Felton, D. Ruell, C. Austin, M. Brown, I. Heidenreich, D. Toth, S. Coleman, M. Scarano, M. Badger (non-voting member), P. Preston.

The meeting started at 6:00pm in the Ashland elementary café.

Felton stated that the warrant article re: \$5.00 for vehicles fee does not need to come before the budget committee according to Laurie Spector in legal.

The public hearing for the town budget started at 6:30pm.

Felton started the hearing with the electric budget. It was mentioned that electric, water and sewer are not taxed based. They are fee based.

The type of work being done breaks down electric salaries.

We will include 2013 salary on the website.

Nichols said that it would take approximately \$150,000 to finish No. Ashland Road.

There is a 2.8% salary increase for union members, which include Joe, Devin, Mel, and Karen.

Water:

The question was asked if there has been any consideration from the water commissioners to reimburse the town for the long term bond. Boyle stated that there has not, because the bond was formed before there were commissioners.

Sewer:

No questions.

Town:

Felton spoke on how the differences were stated on the summary sheet.

Felton went over revenues

On the budget itself Felton went over the items that had a significant change from the previous year.

It was noted that the town hall needs work and that the committee should rethink about putting the \$40,000 back into the budget in General Gov't bldg.

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Chief Randall spoke about reraising the salary line \$28,000 to the original suggestion.

Chief Randall spoke about money taken away on the grant line.

There was a question about what the chief expense line was used for. Chief Randall said it was for code work, equipment, ect.

Branscombe spoke on fire roof. The roof life expectancy would be for 25 to 30 years. Mark Ober asked about putting on a slanted roof. Branscombe said that it would not work because of where the snow would fall off too.

Scarano spoke on reserves and why it is so important to have them.

Mark Ober would like to have highway & street improvements increased back to \$50,000. That would be to “keep good roads good”.

Paquette asked to reconsider increasing salaries in recycling back to \$25,873.

Park & Rec:

The summer program to be eliminated.

Lifeguards at the beach to be eliminated.

After school program will continue till the end of 2013.

With those eliminations there will be a \$33,676 savings.

People in the audience want to keep Park & Rec and do not mind that their taxes could go up.

One member of the audience brought up the fact that the after school program, summer program, campground and beach collectively made a profit. But she understood separately they all did not.

The \$2,000 for PBCAM allows people to see what is going on. That the town could be transparent and show they are not hiding anything.

Warrant articles:

Chief Randall spoke on the benefits of leasing the vehicles opposed to buying them.

The gentleman from Genesis spoke briefly to the audience.

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The public hearing was finished at 9:00pm.

Our next meeting is Monday, January 14, 2013 @ 6:00 at a place to be determined.  
(Either the fire station or booster club).

Heidenreich made the motion, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Brown to adjourn the meeting at 9:10pm. All members aye.

Christine Austin, Secretary