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**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
BUDGET MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12TH, 2017
ASHLAND TOWN OFFICE
6:00 PM**

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Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM with a roll call vote. Chairman Fran Newton, Vice Chairman Harold Lamos, and Selectmen Tejasinha Sivalingam present; Selectman Leigh Sharps and Selectman Casey Barney were absent. Others present: Town Administrator (TA) Charles Smith, Library Trustee Mardean Badger, Zoning Board of Adjustment Chair Eli Badger.

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Old Business

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Before discussing further preparations of the 2018 budget, Town Clerk/Tax Collector (TC/TC) Patricia Tucker requested the Board of Selectmen resign the NH Department of Revenue Administration (DRA) MS 1 form to reflect DRA's updated form.

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Election

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TC/TC Tucker presented the Election budget to the Board of Selectmen. The Election budget did not have significant changes other than the adverting line, which was suggested to be increased for next year's elections. Select Board members made no changes other than transferring a \$1,000 from the "longevity salary" line to the "clerk salary" line.

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MOTION: Vice Chair Lamos

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To reduce line 01-4140-10-132 (Election & Registration Town Clerk Longevity) from \$5,886 to \$4,886 and increase line 01-4140-10-130 (Election & Registration Clerk Salary) \$1,000 to \$19,000 from the requested \$18,000.

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SECOND: Selectman Sivalingam

VOTE: 3-0 (Yes: Lamos, Sivalingam, Newton)

MOTION PASSED

MOTION: Vice Chair Lamos

To approve the Election & Registration budget for \$43,678.

SECOND: Selectman Sivalingam

VOTE: 3-0 (Yes: Lamos, Sivalingam, Newton)

MOTION PASSED

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Finance

TC/TC Tucker reviewed with the Selectmen the current finance expenditures for the Tax Collector. The postage line, which is used to send out tax billing, has been over expended this year and November tax bills still need to be sent out. The board agreed to increase the line \$570 to \$2,570. Tax Collector training had been under expended thus far this year, as such, it was agreed to reduce the line \$100 to \$650. Board agreed to change the salary lines for the Tax Collector like the Town Clerk. Votes were as follows:

MOTION: Vice Chair Lamos

To increase line 01-4150-10-625 (Financial postage) from \$2,000 to \$2,570.

1 **SECOND:** Selectman Sivalingam
2 **VOTE:** 3-0 (Yes: Lamos, Sivalingam, Newton)
3 **MOTION PASSED**

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5 **MOTION:** Vice Chair Lamos
6 *To reduce line 01-4150-40-331 (Tax Collector training) from \$750 to \$650.*

7 **SECOND:** Selectman Sivalingam
8 **VOTE:** 3-0 (Yes: Lamos, Sivalingam, Newton)
9 **MOTION PASSED**

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11 **MOTION:** Vice Chair Lamos
12 *To reduce line 01-4150-10-132 (Tax Collector Longevity) from \$5,886 to \$4,886 and increase line 01-4150-*
13 *10-110 (Tax Collector Salary) \$1,000 to \$19,000 from the requested \$18,000.*

14 **SECOND:** Selectman Sivalingam
15 **VOTE:** 3-0 (Yes: Lamos, Sivalingam, Newton)
16 **MOTION PASSED**

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18 **MOTION:** Chairman Newton
19 *To approve the financial budget for \$113,884.*
20 **SECOND:** Vice Chair Lamos
21 **VOTE:** 3-0 (Yes: Lamos, Sivalingam, Newton)
22 **MOTION PASSED**

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24 **Library**

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26 Library Trustee Mardean Badger informed the Board of Selectmen how the Budget Committee recommended a
27 salary increase for their employees. The Library Trustees still need to meet and vote on the recommended
28 increase. Selectmen Sivalingam, expressed his support for the library, asked about staffing and the possibility of
29 reducing library salaries and supplementing staff with volunteers. Trustee Badger informed the board that all
30 hiring is done by the Library and the hiring of volunteers to fill the positions raise liability and labor law
31 concerns. Selectmen Sivalingam brokered the conversation about having the library budget be a separate
32 warrant article. There was not consensus support from the group in separating the library budget.

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34 **MOTION:** Selectman Sivalingam
35 *To approve the library budget for \$62,912.*
36 **SECOND:** Vice Chair Lamos
37 **VOTE:** 3-0 (Yes: Lamos, Sivalingam, Newton)
38 **MOTION PASSED**

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40 **Land Use**

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42 Chairman of the Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) Eli Badger started the presentation of the land use budget
43 about the need for a ZBA assistant. Filling the position of an assistant would help citizens who have questions
44 about applications, and furthermore make sure applications are complete for the ZBA members. Chairman
45 Badger felt the applications fees could be increased with the fee being used to offset the ZBA appropriation
46 request. Selectman Sivalingam asked about the possibility of having a volunteer fill the assistant position.
47 Discussion about volunteerism continued thereafter with others in the group expressing concerns about liability,
48 land use expertise, and commitment to the position.

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1 **MOTION:** Vice Chair Lamos
2 ***To approve the land use budget for \$9,722.***
3 **SECOND:** Chairman Newton
4 **VOTE:** 2-1 (**Yes:** Lamos, Newton, **No:** Sivalingam)
5 **MOTION PASSED**

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7 **Patriotic Purposes**

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9 TA Smith presented the Patriotic Purposes budget and talked about how most of the lines in this section of the
10 budget such as wages, FICA, Medicare, are offset by revenue from the 4th of July celebration. No requested
11 changes from last year's appropriation for Memorial Day supplies and the Heritage Commission.
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13 **MOTION:** Selectman Sivalingam
14 ***To approve the patriotic purposes budget for \$11,689.***
15 **SECOND:** Chairman Newton
16 **VOTE:** 3-0 (**Yes:** Lamos, Newton, Sivalingam)
17 **MOTION PASSED**

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19 **Conservation Commission**

20 No request for an appropriation increase.
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22 **MOTION:** Selectman Sivalingam
23 ***To approve the Conservation Commission budget for \$1,000.***
24 **SECOND:** Chairman Newton
25 **VOTE:** 2-0-1 (**Yes:** Newton, Sivalingam; **Abstain:** Lamos)
26 **MOTION PASSED**

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28 Hearing no other business before the Board of Selectmen Vice Chairman Lamos made a motion to adjourn the
29 meeting at 7:53 PM, seconded by Selectman Sivalingam – all in favor.
30

31 Respectfully submitted on September 15th, 2017
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33 By,
34
35 Charles Smith