

ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
October 23, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Jeanette Stewart. Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call vote: Present: Sherrie Downing, David Ruell, Eli Badger, Bobbi Hoerter and Harold Lamos. Sandra Coleman (absent with notice).

Downing moved, Hoerter seconded approval of September 15, 2016, Budget Committee minutes, with corrections. Unanimous approval.

Ms. Stewart opened meeting by inquiring which departments the Budget Committee would like to return to address issues. Discussion among Budget Committee members regarding various departments and whether we had more direct questions. Mr. Badger voiced he felt the various departments had appeared before us, and now the ball was now in our court, so to speak.

Budget Committee reached a consensus that we would not call the Police Department, Park & Rec Department, Executive, Financial, Election departments back to appear before us. We will vote on the various department's budgets at a later date. Department heads will be present when Budget Committee votes on their departments.

Ms. Stewart announced our next meeting will be Monday, 10/30/17 at 6:00 p.m. at the Ashland School Library. We will address the Electric Department budget, Public Works Department and Fire Department. Craig Moore, the new Public Works Director, had indicated to Ms. Stewart there were some cuts he could perhaps make. Apparently Ms. Coleman has sent a few questions to Chief Heath and those questions will be addressed. A print out of those questions will be provided to the other Budget Committee members.

A brief discussion was held regarding the fact there are several additional contracts in various departments the upcoming year. If we were to go to a Default Budget again, those contract amounts must be paid. We generally discussed how to let the general public know this information. We all agreed the material is available at the Deliberative Session and it is the responsibility of each registered Ashland voter to pick those materials up and read them.

Ms. Stewart indicated she has spoken to the Water & Sewer Department Chair, Mr. David Toth. He has agreed to meet with the Budget Committee in November (no set date).

The Budget Committee discussed that Quarterly Reports from the Water & Sewer Department have not been received from the BOS at all during 2017. But the BOS does not have the right to enforce this mandate, which the people voted in last March, 2016. The Electric Department has provided quarterly reports.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbi Hoerter, Budget Committee Member