

ASHLAND BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
January 8, 2018

Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Budget Committee Chairman Jeanette Stewart. Roll call vote: Present: Sherrie Downing, Bobbi Hoerter, Harold Lamos, David Ruell and Eli Badger. Sandra Coleman not present. Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Stewart opened meeting stating Fire Chief Heath would like to speak to the Budget Committee regarding an issue. In early December, Chief Heath inquired from Town Hall when the last payroll date of 2017 could be turned in. The last 5 days of December, 2017, payroll was \$7,046.59. He was told by 2 Town Hall employees he could turn the payroll in the first part of January, 2018, and it would still go toward his 2017 budget. When he turned his December, 2017, payroll in, he was then told by the same Town Hall employees the \$7,046.59 would indeed be taken out of his 2018 budget, contrary to what these employees previously communicated to him. Discussion by Budget Committee, with a suggestion by BOS liaison Lamos to present this to the BOS to be encumbered for 2017 expenses.

Budget Committee addressed General Assistance, line 612, Downing made motion, seconded by Hoerter, to reduce line to \$5,000, 2 yeas, 4 nos, motions failed. Ruell motioned line 612 to \$15,000, Stewart seconded, discussion followed. 3 yeas, 3 nos, Motion fails. Badger added town has to pay welfare no matter what. Hoerter asked Lamos what the unexpended fund amount was. Lamos indicated \$925,000. Further discussion. Ruell moved, Stewart seconded General Assistance Line 612 \$20,000, 4 yeas, 2 nos, Motion carries.

Budget Committee next addressed the Ashland Electric's budget. Committee had discussion regarding the outstanding questions we had for Electric which remained unanswered. Lamos indicated many of our questions were valid, but no one was present to answer our questions. Hoerter moved, Stewart seconded, Line 810, Street Lighting be reduced to \$42,000. 4 yeas, 2 nos. Motion carries. Hoerter moved, Stewart seconded \$3,125,250 bottom line Electric budget. 5 yeas, 1 no. Motion carries.

Budget Committee addressed Water & Sewer Departments. Stewart stated Mr. Toth, Chairman of the Water & Sewer Commissioners, told Stewart since we had no questions, he would not be appearing. Hoerter clarified Budget Committee did have questions, but were never given a date for Toth to appear. Apparently, this was a miscommunication.

Sewer Department: Downing moved, Hoerter seconded cutting \$90,000 from 6230, Contract Operations. 2 yeas, 3 nos, 1 abstain. Motion fails. Downing moved, Hoerter seconded Line 6320 Electricity to \$10,000. 3 yeas, 2 nos, 1 abstain, motion fails. Downing moved, Hoerter seconded Line 6795 Office Equipment be put to \$1,000. 3 yeas, 2 nos, 1 abstain. Motion carries. Ruell moved, Stewart seconded Sewer bottom line of \$422,401, 4 yeas, 2 nos, motion carries.

Water Department: Downing moved, Hoerter seconded, Line 6230, Contract Operations, to \$60,000, 4 yeas, 2 nos, motion carries. Downing moved, Hoerter seconded Line 6795 Office Furniture to \$1,000. 4 yeas, 2 nos. Motion carries. Downing moved, Lamos seconded Line 7220, Testing Wells, to \$2,000, 2 yeas, 4 nos. Motion fails. Downing moved, Hoerter seconded, Line 6630 Mains, Maintenance & Repair, to \$10,000. 4 yeas, 2 nos. Motion carries. Hoerter moved, Stewart seconded, Water bottom line \$178,191, 4 yeas, 2 nos, Motion carries.

Town Revenues. Hoerter moved, Stewart seconded \$823,749, 5 yeas, 1 no. Motion carries.

Ashland School Board Warrant Articles Recommendations:

- Art. 2 Ruell moved, Hoerter seconded, recommending. 5 yeas, 1 no.
- Art. 3, Ruell moved, Steward seconded, recommending, 6 in favor, 0 opposed.
- Art. 5. Recommends Operating Budget of \$3,401,948.
- Art. 6. Ruell moved, Badger seconded, recommending. 4 yeas, 2 nos.
- Art. 7, Ruell moves, Badger seconds, recommending. 4 yeas, 2 nos.

Water & Sewer Warrant Articles Recommendations: Hoerter moved, Downing seconded, to not recommend article. 2 yeas, 3 nos, 1 abstain. Water & Sewer \$30,000 Asset Management Plan, Stewart moved, Hoerter seconded not to recommend. 3 yeas, 2 nos, 1 abstain.

Town Warrant Articles Recommendations:

Corrections discussed to Election of Officers.

- Art. 2. Thompson Street. Hoerter moved, Stewart seconds, NOT to recommend. 3 yeas, 3 nos.
- Art. 3 General Govt. Hoerter moves to recommend, Stewart seconds recommending. 5 yeas, 1 abstain.
- Art. 4 Electric Budget of \$3,125,250. 5 yeas, 1 no.
- Art. 5 Water Budget of \$178,191, 4 yeas, 2 nos.
- Art. 6 Sewer Budget of \$422,401, 4 yeas, 2 nos.
- Art. 7. Fire Engine. Stewart moved to recommend, Ruell seconds, 5 yeas, 1 no.
- Art. 8. Ruell moved, Stewart seconds recommending. 4 yeas, 1 no, 1 abstain.
- Art. 9. Stewart moved, Ruell seconds recommending. 4 yeas, 2 nos.
- Art. 10. Fire Dept. Cap. Reserve. Ruell moves, Stewart seconds to recommend, 4 yeas, 2 nos.
- Art. 12. Public Works Cap. Reserve. Ruell moves to recommend, Stewart seconds, 4 yeas, 2 nos.
- Art. 12. Police Cap. Reserve. Ruell moves, Stewart seconds to recommend. 4 yeas, 2 nos.
- Art. 13. Town Buildings Maintenance Cap. Reserve. Ruell moves, Lamos seconds to recommend, 3 yeas, 3 nos.
- Art. 14. Ashland Library Cap. Reserve. Ruell moves, Lamos seconds, 4 yeas, 2 nos.
- Art. 15. Emergency Management Cap. Res. No recommendation by Budget Committee as there are two different numbers listed in article.
- Art. 16. Town Hall Planning Study. Ruell moves, Badger seconds, 2 yeas, 4 nos.
- Art. 17. Property Tax Map Cap. Reserve. Hoerter moves to not recommend, Downing seconds, 3 yeas, 3 nos.
- Art. 18. If Art. 2 defeated, BOS can still expend money. Hoerter moves to not recommend, Stewart seconds, 3 yeas, 3 nos.
- Art. 19. Employee Disability. Ruell moves, Stewart seconds to recommend, 4 yeas, 2 nos.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Bobbi Hoerter, Budget Committee Member