ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2018
ASHLAND TOWN OFFICE
12:30 PM

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Newton called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM with Selectmen –Fran Newton, Selectman Leigh Sharps, and Selectman Kathleen DeWolfe present; Selectman Casey Barney and Vice Chairman Lamos had to leave due to other engagements. Others present: Town Administrator Charles Smith and Town Clerk/Tax Collector Pat Tucker.

II. TAX RATE

a. The Board of Selectmen had a meeting to finalize the tax rate, which had been delayed due to the town wide 2018 property assessment revaluation. Before finalizing the town tax rate, the Board discussed their discretion to use unassigned fund balance to reduce the town's portion of the total tax rate; the total rate is the sum of the town, county, local and state education tax rates. Board talked about how they used $250,000 of the unassigned fund balance last year to lower the town rate and how that amount would have to be used again this year to keep the rate, at minimum, the same as last year. Consensus of the board was to not use more of the unassigned fund balance and keep the balance within the Department of Revenue Administration recommended percentage, 5% to 17%, town is at 11.9%.

MOTION: Selectman DeWolfe
To not use the unassigned fund balance to lower the tax rate and take the next steps for the Town Clerk/Tax Collector to set the tax rate and prepare the warrant.
SECOND: Selectman Sharps
VOTE: 3-0 (All in favor)
MOTION PASSED

III. Board of Selectmen adjourned their meeting at 12:46 P.M.

Town Administrator Charles Smith wrote these minutes on December 12, 2018.