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**ASHLAND BOARD OF SELECTMEN
PUBLIC HEARING AND MEETING MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019
ASHLAND UTILITY BUILDING
6:00 P.M.**

I. PUBLIC HEARING

At 6:00 P.M. Chairman Frances Newton opened the public hearing for a \$500,000 bond/note warrant article, that is on this year's warrant. The intent of the article would allow the Water and Sewer Commissioners to negotiate the terms, with the purpose of the funds to be used for construction and equipment at the new septage receiving station. Note; Vice Chairman Lamos was absent for this hearing/meeting.

- a. New Septage Receiving Station: Ashland Water and Sewer Chairman David Toth started the public hearing by giving those in attendance a general overview of the new septage receiving project and the need for a bond. Intended use of the new septage receiving station, as evident, receive septage from trucks, screen town sewage, and remove particles and stones from going into the lagoons, project should increase the use of the lagoons. [Note: Water & Sewer has another warrant article this year for a \$75K bond to study the town lagoons]. The new station will move the sewer department septage receiving system from an honor system to a metering system that will allow the department to track billing more efficiently. Presently, the department reports an estimated \$500K in revenue and expectations are the new system will increase revenue 15-30%. Revenue received from the septage receiving will pay for the bond, therefore, they'll be no tax impact or sewer rate increases. General purpose of the bond is for the additional costs of the project. As such, additional \$141K for a SCADA system, that allows the department to operate remotely, protects their equipment, and collects data for NHDES (as part of the permit process). Other additional costs; steel tariffs (\$25K), construction costs increased 5%, engineering costs (\$125K). The current federal government shutdown could potentially impact this project as federal funds from the Northern Borders grant (\$220K) have been delayed. If the shutdown were to end soon and the grant funds were released Water and Sewer could borrow less than the \$500K. Chairman Newton closed the public hearing at 6:33 P.M.

II. BOARD MEETING

- a. Following the public hearing the Board members present had a meeting at 6:34 P.M. to discuss an appointment to the Ashland Zoning Board of Adjustments (ZBA). Board members appointed Eli Badger to ZBA.

MOTION: Selectman Sharps

To appoint Eli Badger as an alternate to the ZBA.

SECOND: Selectman DeWolfe

DISCUSSION: Chairman Newton opened the discussion about how the ZBA has had issues maintaining a quorum and therefore an inability to hear pending cases.

1 ZBA has a pending case with a hearing scheduled for Thursday, January 17th, 2019.

2 **VOTE:** 4-0 (All in favor)

3 **MOTION PASSED**

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5 **III. SELECTBOARD ITEMS**

- 6 a. Selectmen Sharps has contacted a few solar companies and invited them to present at
7 an upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting. Board members also intend on inviting the
8 Water & Sewer, and Electric Department Commissioners, when the next presentation
9 date is confirmed.
10 b. Next Board of Selectmen meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 21st, 2019 at
11 6:30 P.M. in the Ashland Elementary School Library.

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13 **IV. Board of Selectmen adjourned their meeting at 6:40 P.M.**

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16 *Town Administrator Charles Smith wrote the meeting minutes for this public hearing and board*
17 *meeting on January 15, 2019.*
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